

SUZANNE WHITE

2015

*New Astrology™ Horoscopes
Chinese and Western*



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MONTHLY FORECASTS FOR ALL SIGNS

LOVE • MONEY • HEALTH • CAREER • FAMILY

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2015 YOUR NEW ASTROLOGY™ HOROSCOPES

Chinese & Western Predictions

By Suzanne White

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Suzanne White

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SUZANNE WHITE'S



**ANNUAL NEW ASTROLOGY™
FORECASTS FOR
2015
THE YEAR OF THE WOOD SHEEP**

FEBRUARY 19, 2015 THROUGH FEB 7, 2016

**COMPLETE MONTH-BY-MONTH PREDICTIONS
FOR ALL 24 (12 WESTERN AND 12 CHINESE)
ASTROLOGICAL SIGNS**

Phew! On February 18, 2015, the punishing confrontational Horse Year will be over. Long live the more merciful Year of the Sheep!



On February 18, 2015 All the King's Horses will gallop back to the future to make way for the milder, more creative, eccentric and bewildering Blue Wood Sheep.

***A HUGE HELLO AND WARM WELCOME TO OUR OLD FRIEND
(last appearance 1955)***

THE WOOD SHEEP

***APPEALING, GIFTED, ROMANTIC, CAPRICIOUS, PLAYFUL
WOOD SHEEP LIVE TO INVENT AND DREAM AND CREATE
SHEEP OF ALL TYPES PREFER TO DEPEND***

***on another person, on an institution, on an authority
or a structure that they do not have to create for themselves.***



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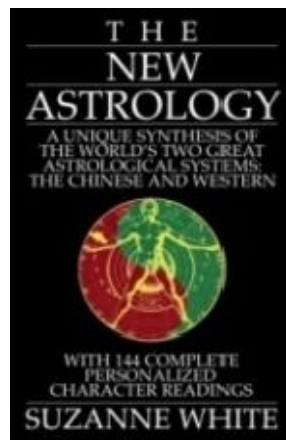
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WHAT IS THE NEW ASTROLOGY™?

THE NEW ASTROLOGY™ Combines Western signs with Chinese signs and comes up with **144 new signs**. If you are a Sagittarius and were born in 1949, then you are a Sagittarius/Ox. It's simple. Take your regular, familiar astrological sign and match it with the animal sign of the year you were born. Now you know your **NEW ASTROLOGY™** sign **HOW TO FIND YOUR NEW ASTROLOGY™**
HOROSCOPE FOR 2013

Let's say you find out you are a Cancer/Tiger. First, read the monthly predictions for CANCER. After you have read your CANCER predictions, take a deep breath and turn to the Chinese Zodiac Signs half of the book. Read the month's predictions for TIGER. Then, switch on your mental blender. In a wink, the two months' forecasts will merge to keep you informed about what's going on in your New Astrology sign's life for the month ahead.

NB: Capricorns and Aquarians.... For your specific Chinese Animal Sign, check the exact date (they vary) of the Chinese New Year on your birthday on the tables at the end of this book.



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2015

ALL ABOUT SHEEP AND THE WOOD SHEEP YEAR

JANUARY 31, 2014 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18, 2015

By Suzanne White

High Priestess of Chinese and Western Astrologies



Provence, France
October 2014

Dear Reader,

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE GREEN SHEEP YEAR

Last May (2014) I read a piece in the Washington Post about how people in China and other Asian societies were rushing to get pregnant early in 2014 so they would hatch a Horse baby in the Horse year. They did not want to breed a baby in the Sheep year i.e. after Feb 19, 2015.

According to Chinese beliefs, Sheep (also called Goats) are meek creatures, raised for nothing more than slaughter. Many Chinese think that babies born in the Year of the Sheep will, therefore, grow up to be followers rather than leaders. We westerners might call this belief a superstition. But, it is true, that bazillions of Asians intentionally avoid having Sheep babies. They believe that Goat/Sheep children are destined for heartbreak and failed marriages. And worse... they think Sheep will be unlucky in business. One popular Chinese folk saying holds that only one out of ten people born in the Year of the Sheep finds happiness.

The above folklore may indeed be at least half true. In my own experience, Sheep people are intentional non-conformist outsiders. They often prefer not to fit in to any societal role. I wouldn't go so far as to say that Sheep are sociopaths. But some are. Some Sheep simply do as they please, when and where it pleases them to do it.

The luckiest Sheep are artistic or wildly intellectually creative. All the arts and innovations - from

mandolin playing to *haute couture* to concocting new software - are abetted if the artist doesn't care what society thinks of their work. Sheep do it their way. They paint or write or invent or dance or act or cook or grow things better than almost any other sign of the Chinese Zodiac.

However, no matter what masterpieces they produce, Sheep have trouble exploiting and protecting them. They are frequently hopeless when it comes to selling and buying, negotiating prices or putting money aside for a rainy day. Sometime Sheep are even at a loss to provide a roof over their own and their family's heads.

The Basic Energy of Sheep Subjects is Yin. Not Yang.

Yin is considered passive, negative, dark & feminine.

Yang is thought of as active, positive, bright & masculine

The 12 animal signs are always in the same order. Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig. These signs are repeated 12 times in a 60-year period. Then the whole 60-year cycle begins again.

Odd numbered animals are Yang . Even numbered animals are Yin.

YANG FAMILY: Rat 1, Tiger 3, Dragon 5, Horse 7 , Monkey 9 Dog 11.

YIN FAMILY: Ox 2 , Rabbit 4, Snake 6, Sheep 8, Rooster 10, Pig 12

THE SHEEP, we now know, is part of the YIN family. Some say that Yin represents peace, harmony and tranquility. One would hope then that a feeling of utter world serenity might pervade in 2015.

Not so fast! Let's look at previous Sheep years in memory. Were these years peaceful, harmonious and tranquil?

1931 The Great Depression

1943 WWII

1955 US intervenes in Iran

1967 Yom Kippur War Israel, Race riots in US

1979 American hostages taken in Iran.

1991 The Gulf War

2003 US invades Iraq

Those Sheep years were anything but peaceful, harmonious or tranquil. It is true that Sheep years are Yin and so might be thought softer and less warlike than other years. However, that is clearly not always the case.

Sheep years offer us scads of belligerent spirit and penurious periods aplenty. In other words, Sheep years can be bellicose and poverty-stricken as well as creative and innovative. In my heart, I want to reassure all of my readers that this coming Sheep year 2015 will be warm apple pie and roses all year long. Truthfully , I don't quite think so.

When Sheep are challenged or their actions thwarted, they can switch from peace-loving Yinsters to vile aggressors, self-pitying losers and pessimistic cranks. And so with the years of the Sheep. They may at

first give us an impression of serenity. But wait. There will be many slips twixt the cup and the lips to come in 2015. See your own two signs for details of how the Sheep will affect you and your personal life.

This Wood Sheep year will be a time for all right-thinking peoples to pull together. If you ever wanted to start your own political party, participate in a group charity effort or teach Afghan children how to speak English, 2015 is your year. Any and all humanitarian endeavors will be supported and rewarded. Being one of “the good guys” will be encouraged. Bad guys won’t be popular and hypocrites will be flushed out of their secret lairs. The man or woman who is unfaithful to a spouse or lover will be rejected by their fellows. The employee caught with their hand in the till will be publicly ridiculed and severely punished. Crime and violence in film and TV will not be popular. In 2015, people will be more interested in the arts and culture than in watching punishing sports events and viewing bloody cadavers. In short, from a day-to-day living standpoint, the Sheep year 2015 will be more clement and gentler to be alive in. Good riddance to the rigorous backbreaking Horse year 2014.

Sheep, as you already know, can hardly be thought of as workaholics. They put in their time at work. But oftentimes their hearts and minds are elsewhere. Sheep are only work-crazy when the job at hand is something they are passionate about. Usually Sheep have a side interest to their day job and as soon as they grab the time, they are deeply involved in music or painting or inventing or sculpting or dancing or singing or collecting some oddball thing nobody else would take time to bother about. Not ordinary collector’s items such as butterflies or coins or stamps. Rather Sheep will accumulate a slew of obscure types of grasshoppers, old-fashioned alarm clocks or vintage frocks and hats from the early 20th century. How does this unusual bent, affect us in the year 2015? Well, the year will not be about ambition, success or money. Instead it will be about people and their essential needs. Efforts to relieve poverty and stamp out rampant illness will be favored. Those of you who invent and innovate can expect to be given time and even funds for your projects. But if you are one of those money-hungry folks who thinks of nothing but earning more success and social standing, you will ride a bumpy road ahead in 2015. Sheep don’t care about accumulating money. They care about musing in fertile fields, making and building things with their minds and hands; and they care about routine. Not a routine that they impose on others. Rather a safe, unchanging routine which they can be guided by and which allows them to do more of what they are passionate about.

Big changes are not designed to please Sheep people. Aggression for its own sake is not in the Sheep make up. Sheep prefer stasis. They are a peace-loving lot. Hence, even though at present, we can hear the rattle of sabers loud and clear; there is hope. Sheep are about compromise. So, if events go according to the Sheep’s plan, 2015, the year of the Green Wood Sheep will smooth its woolly balm over the various hostilities and keep them from inciting wars among the peoples of the earth.

In 2015 you will see families reunited. Harmony will return between couples. Runaway children will come back to the safety of their homes. The year encourages concession. These are turbulent times. 2015 will point the way through the storms and rekindle our belief in ourselves as one people who need to drop our petty individual quarrels, mend our broken fences and act as one human race to save Mother Earth from our own follies and excesses.

THE SHEEP CHARACTER



SHEEP YEARS ARE 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027

(Capricorns & Aquarians Check Chinese Calendar End of Book for exact birth dates)

THE SHEEP IS YIN. THE SHEEP'S MOTTO IS: "I CREATE"

THE MYSTIFYING SHEEP

Oh Gracious Sheep,

Your sign is the most creative. You are truly gifted, have a flair for the aesthetic and enjoy being in tune with nature. You're artless, hardworking and intuitive. You know how to relax. In fact, could give "take it easy" classes. But before you do anything, you must be provided with security. You are a veritable security junkie. You need to feel protected and be grazing safely in a fertile field before you can make successful contributions. Without structure, you're uncomfortable. But... You are not comfortable creating your own structure. Hence, you seek to depend.

You are an eccentric, and something of a winner, too. You don't mind struggling and straining in an effort to reach a noble or tangible goal, but you hate adhering to schedules or performing repetitive, routine chores. You need lots of ready cash, yet you scorn budgets.

A formidable ambivalence divides your basic need for security and your longing for total freedom from stressful limits. Sheep are generally both delicate and playful. Your good manners, wiles and charm will go a long way towards finding that person, establishment or profession that offers you maximum protection and allows your talent to thrive. Try your hand at poetry, research or, better still, just lie back, relax and wax Bohemian. You would make a perfect hippie.

Try courting an eloquent Horse. Horses know how to work hard for others. Bat your eyelashes at a refined, home loving Cat or—better still—grab yourself a scrupulous, competent (and often rich) Pig to lean on and love for life. Pigs adore Sheeps. Avoid Tigers and Oxen. They are not tolerant of your capriciousness.

You don't mind the role of dependent so you'll probably enjoy a peaceful childhood. As an amorous and fanciful young adult you may experience some devastating romantic disappointments. But luck shines in

the third part of your life, bringing love and security to coddle your tender soul. A bit of practical advice: find your “fertile field” at a young age and force yourself to graze patiently. Your fortune can often be found in somebody else’s bank account.



THE SHEEP ID CARD

Lasting symbols have special powers. Enhance your image by surrounding yourself with tangible signs of your own identity; make these symbols known to your friends and family use them daily and they will bring you luck, security and a feeling of personal worth.

YOUR BEST

color is *light green* flower is *narcissus* fragrance is *apple blossom* tree is *dogwood* flavor is *bland* birth stone is *sapphire* lucky number is *12*

YOUR FAVORITE

food is *raw vegetables* animal is *nightingale* drink is *mineral water* spice is *saffron* metal is *aluminum*



herb is *mint* musical instrument is *harp*

THE SHEEP CHARACTER



On good days: Sheep are appealing, altruistic, creative, empathetic, intuitive, generous, artless, gentle,

romantic, sensitive, compliant, candid, self-effacing darlings.

But when the going gets rough: Sheep can become self-pitying, pessimistic, fugitive, parasitic, vengeful, lazy, indecisive, contentious, violent, capricious, irresponsible, unpunctual, bigoted, nasty pieces of work.

SHEEP are the dreamers of the Chinese zodiac. They are somewhat languid creatures whose aim in life shifts about with ease and grace, following no particular pattern and confounding all and sundry. The Sheep person is a thoroughgoing maverick. His/her brain rarely obeys his/her feet. They seem content to be blown along by the wind. Then, suddenly, they alight in some uncharacteristic place without having given or taken notice. Before the Sheep knows it or bothers to resist, he or she often finds himself embroiled in some unlikely plot, surrounded by people with whom they have nothing in common, accomplishing precious little and going nowhere fast.

Because of this tendency to give in to will-o'-the-wisp behavior and the obvious strains which all that whimsy and sudden change place on his or her gentle but pessimistic nature, the average Sheep worships inertia. He or she dreams of being able to sit still somewhere pleasant and not move for fear of finding himself up a tree or down a well, victimized once again by circumstances over which they are convinced they have no control.

In this last assessment, the Sheep may be right. Of all the signs of the Chinese system, Sheep are the most pliable, gentle and willing to please. Their natures are fluid and their hearts full of sympathy for those involved in dilemmas with which they can closely identify. If they dare to engage with the world at large, Sheep are easily drawn into complex predicaments. This being so, they usually shy from confrontation, pull back when faced with heavy decision making and blatantly refuse to take an unpopular stand in a conflict.

Frequently Sheep willingly take a back seat to a shrewish wife or bossy husband who provides security. They don't seem to mind being putty in the hands of an exacting boss or superior authority. Although rarely on time, they can adhere to imposed deadlines — the more demanding and urgent the better. Other people's punctual demands constitute a refuge from the ever-present tug of escapism to which all Sheep at one time or another fall prey.

Every person born in a Sheep year comes into the world drowning in Yin. Not exactly fey. But there is, in this character, a hypersensitivity and talent for tenderness and consideration that ill prepares him or her for the drudgery, tribulation and hard angles of real life. The Sheep is almost too gentle, too gracious for the crushing pressures of day-to-day drudgery. Sheep are ill-equipped to function in our climb-the-ladder-to-success, dog-eat-Sheep world. If pushed to conform to the mold of the self-starting, aggressive business person, the Sheep may suffer a nervous collapse or else take to a *chaise-longue* and plunge head-first into their cerebral safety net. Sheep possess a personal netherworld. Psychological detachment and terminal daydreaming are their private weapons against the harshness of the big, bad world.

Sheep have found that the best way to navigate the perilous trip through life's savage jungles is to be humble enough to depend on the kindness of strangers. If you perceive the often puzzling, non-committal attitude of the Sheep in this light, it will help you to understand why they so exasperatingly resist making decisions.

This is not to suggest that Sheep don't have reserves of force or that they are unable to exert their will. The clever but yielding Sheep is a powerhouse of passive resistance. No Sheep worth his salt wins anything through humiliation or aggression—Sheep are much more imaginative than that. They know how to employ the strength of the weak. They are passed masters at clandestine manipulation. When angered they are capable of concocting life-consuming pain-inflicting vendettas or achieving their own ends

through patient and painful picking at the scabs on an enemy's body. If you have a Sheep for an adversary, you'd better hire a battalion of brilliant and wily advisors - because there is practically nothing you can do to confound his or her determination to beat you at your own game through endurance and behind-the-scenes machination.

The otherworldly side of the Sheep nature lends itself to the study of the esoteric. It is not unusual to find Sheep employed as astrologers, soothsayers or fortunetellers. Like Snakes, they have a sixth sense about what may happen next and often enter professions where prediction is useful such as fashion or design, decorating or the stock market. Armed then, with a master talent for back-room intrigue as well as foreknowledge of future events, the Sheep can be a valuable ally.

The sense of time with which most of us are born, the need for tidy spaces in our days and nights for each activity is more or less foreign to Sheep. A Sheep can stay up for three days and nights to work on a project, then sleep for three days straight. Sheep exhibit uncanny powers of endurance in stressful moments. Yet most Sheep have difficulty rising morning after morning to get to work or an eight o'clock class on time. They deplore schedules and eschew routine. You will however meet Sheep who seem relentlessly organized and fanatically neat. This orderliness is a successful "reverse reaction" to the Sheep's native tendency to drift into sloth and dissipation. If a Sheep can adhere to a schedule about his or her morning *toilette*, they have won a victory. The well-organized Sheep is fighting the constant temptation to disappear into rumination and fantasy - or even be brought down by incursions of schizophrenia or manic depression. It's a rigorous Sheep indeed who always does his/her shopping in the same supermarket at the same time each week. For the Sheep, the idea of accomplishing habitual chores is distasteful and dull. He would always prefer to create, dream, wish, hope and build. When you meet up with a methodical Sheep, stop and make their acquaintance. Structured Sheep have triumphed over fearsome odds. They are exceptional people.

They have succeeded in blending self-discipline with prodigious creativity. This fusion is an unbeatable force for innovation and even genius - in Sheep's clothing of course.



SHEEP HIPPIE

THE FIVE KINDS OF SHEEP

Chinese Astrology has 5 elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water.

As a result, there are 5 distinctly different versions of each animal sign. A different type of Sheep comes along every 12 years.

2015 IS A WOOD SHEEP YEAR

The Wood Sheep

1775 Jane Austen

1895 Carl Orloff, George Burns, Lewis Mumford, Arthur Murray, Bud Abbot, Busby Berkeley, Rudolph Valentino, George Raft, John Ford, King George VI, Marcel Pagnol, Buster Keaton, Groucho Marx, Babe Ruth, R. Buckminster Fuller, Oscar Hammerstein II, Juan Peron, John Dos Passos **1955** Maria Shriver, Debra Winger, Bo Derek, Isabelle Huppert, Isabelle Adjani, Bruce Willis, Margaux Hemingway, Steve Jobs, John Grisham, Nina Hagen, Jerry Seinfeld, Debra Winger, Willem Dafoe, Billy Bob Thornton, Bill Gates, Yo-Yo Ma, Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Idol, Mel Gibson The influence of Wood on the Sheep's whimsical behavior is definitely salutary. Here we see a shored-up and buttressed Sheep person. Instead of indulging in vapid caprice, this Sheep manages to maintain a healthy balance between frivolity and stability. Of all Sheep, this type is most likely to be able to surmount harsh setbacks and carry on valiantly as though nothing untoward had occurred. This Sheep is exorbitantly creative, yet more ambitious than many of his counterparts.

The necessity for security and moral support from the immediate entourage is still very much present in this Sheep's life. Take just a few of the above-mentioned famous men as examples. Arthur Murray, the celebrated dance instructor who gave his name to thousands of ballroom dance studios throughout the world, was typically Sheeplly: tall, graceful and willowy. Dancing is a perfect career for a Sheep; and Arthur Murray was an excellent, innovative teacher. He was not, however, a manager. He always said that his wife Katherine was the brains behind the expansion and management of the Arthur Murray operation. Without her, he claimed, "I would still be swirling around a summer pavilion dance floor looking gorgeous." Knowing his Chinese sign, I believe him.

Wood Sheep are indeed so talented and innovative that marriage and a stable home life often serve as the necessary trampoline for them to dare to leap out into the snarling world and make their fortunes. They need to know that they can always come home and feel safe where they live.

The Wood Sheep is young at heart. Even under duress, he manages to keep a smile or a joke on his lips. Because of this gift for optimism (exceptional in Sheep) he confronts adversity more readily and extricates himself more graciously than most Sheep who are likely, in their frustration, either to crumble or surrender.

Given to mood swings, the Wood Sheep gets depressed from time to time. These sinking spells or periods of gloom are often caused by the hormonal fluctuations common to all Sheep but particularly severe in this one. Careful monitoring of endocrine gland function is advised.

The Wood Sheep lives in a permanent state of moral dilemma. He is, like all his Sheep counterparts, a

hedonist, a potential lifetime lotus-eater. However, the Wood Sheep wants to achieve. He does not choose to remain in the herd and he knows that to reach the lofty goals he imagines, he might have to commit himself to a life of both hard work and protracted routine effort. This prospect, for any Sheep, is daunting. The Wood Sheep can handle it.

To satisfy his desire for success, the Wood Sheep, in his inimitable resourcefulness, learns young how to choose effective friends and associates. First he cultivates their affections, then trusts them implicitly to assist him in getting where he wants to go. I would not go so far as to call this Sheep a “taker”. He doesn’t use people to his own ends. Rather, the Wood Sheep is a jolly parasite. He is easy to have around - a joy and an inspiration to those who will generously surround him with essential comforts, calm and sustenance. And hard work delights him, so influential people willingly give him a hand to get almost anywhere he wants to go.

The Fire Sheep

1907 John Wayne, Laurence Olivier, Cesar Romero, Barbara Stanwyck, James Michener, Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Robert Bresson, Tino Rossi, Anna Magnani, Robert Young, Albert Moravia, W.H. Auden, Anthony Blunt, Rachel Carson, Rosalind Russell, Melvin Belli, Shirley Booth, Benny Carter, Gene Autry, Alberto Moravia, Cab Calloway, Simone de Beauvoir, Stephane Grapelli, Estée Lauder **1967** Keifer Sutherland, Julia Roberts, Kurt Cobain, Laura Dern, Nicole Kidman, Harry Connick Jr., Boris Becker, Mary Lou Retton, Benicio Del Toro, Lily Taylor, Billy Corgan, Liz Phair, Pamela Anderson, Matt LeBlanc, Carrie-Anne Moss, Faith Hill, Mira Sorvino, Moon Unit Zappa, Toni Braxton, P.J. Harvey, Jamie Foxx, Anna Nicole Smith, Chad Lowe, Cuba Gooding, Jr.

The Fire Sheep is a walking emotional holocaust. Passion rules his existence. No matter how he tries, he cannot react collectedly to stimuli, remain cool in the face of insult, and appear aloof when provoked. Mind you, this Sheep is no pouncing Tiger who chews the head off his adversaries before they have a chance to finish their sentences. His methods are more akin to histrionics. He is given to theatrics and flies into rages or succumbs to nervous prostration. The Fire Sheep is too sensitive by half and needs a heavier lid than most to keep his volcanic sentiments in check. A steady partner can make all the difference to the success or failure of the Fire Sheep’s life.

This character is renowned for his charm and ability to affect others through a quality we might call refinement. His is an epidermal sensitivity which raises the very hairs on forearms. People warm to him and instantly admire his edifying style. The Fire Sheep’s ability to reach masses of people with his words or to touch their emotions with his talent for seizing the moment or interpreting a role is legendary. He is talented in the extreme but requires topnotch guidance to ensure his perseverance.

This subject must not be obliged to handle his own finances. The idea of balancing a checkbook is enough to give the Fire Sheep one of his attacks of the vapors. If success knocks at his door, he is well advised not to open up until he has summoned his resident accountant to stand by. The Fire Sheep is a reckless squanderer of money - his own and other people’s. If you know and love one of these fey creatures, you are hereby warned to keep a tight rein on the joint account and put a ceiling on the credit cards. The Fire Sheep is not dishonest, but he is both thoughtless and inconsequential about spending. Fortunately, he is also incredibly lucky. I certainly don’t advise gambling, but the occasional raffle ticket couldn’t hurt, could it?

This Sheep can enjoy some degree of superiority in a hierarchy but must not assume too grand a role. An excess of responsibility can lead to the onset of chronic ills such as migraine or ulcers. A Fire Sheep has a short fuse. When angered, he doesn’t know how to keep his antagonistic feelings under his horns. Leadership demands self-control. The Fire Sheep is short on that commodity.

Charisma is the Fire Sheep's strong suit. His gentle manner and aura of mystery attract others. The best professions this person can choose will have to do with theater, movies, music, mysticism, philosophy, the subconscious, occult science or perhaps physics or other mind-liberating sciences.

It follows, then, that the Fire Sheep is drawn to causes that seek to improve the quality of our inner as well as our outer lives. Fire Sheep can take the lead in such areas as acting, directing, singing, ecology, health professions, nutrition or alternative medicines. A smart Fire Sheep can make a handsome fortune in these and other New Age pursuits. But he must surround himself with honorable and sympathetic associates who will never give him the key to the safe.

The Earth Sheep

1859 Arthur Conan Doyle, Billy the Kid, Sholem Aleichem, A.E. Houseman, Pierre Curie, Georges Seurat

1919 Red Buttons, Margot Fonteyn, Malcolm Forbes, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Anita O' Day, McGeorge Bundy, Hugh Carey, Art Blakey, Dino de Laurentiis, Pete Seeger, Veronica Lake, Jack Palance, Michel Deon, Louis Feraud, Jennifer Jones, Louis Jourdan, Celeste Holm, Lana Turner, Cardinal John O' Connor. Nat "King" Cole, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Merce Cunningham, Celeste Holm, Liberace, Betty Comden, Eva Peron, Pete Seeger, Pauline Kael, Sam Wanamaker, Sir Edmund Hillary, George Shearing, George Wallace, Art Blakey, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Shirley Jackson, Isaac Asimov **1979** Norah Jones, Kate Hudson, Mena Suvari, Amelie Mauresmo, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Claire Danes, Pink

There is genius in the Earth Sheep's makeup. Given the proper circumstances, skill and business may combine to help this Sheep create a superlative and luxurious (just the way he likes it) lifestyle.

But the Earth Sheep is terminally erratic. Half the time he cannot decide what he wants to do and the other half he suddenly waxes determined and goes after a difficult-to-achieve goal. Sometimes he gets there and things go swimmingly, providing he is well protected and insured against his own worst enemy—himself.

The Earth Sheep tends to be argumentative. His talent for talking things through is more pronounced than that of other, less naturally verbal Sheep. But he often bases his arguments on illogical premises or flighty dreams which just happen to be zooming around his psyche and catch his fancy. As he doesn't always think things through to their logical conclusion, the tone of these discussions is often chaotic. If he is not careful, eventually people grow to mistrust his judgment and he becomes the subject of some ridicule among his peers. Studying logic in college and participating in school debating teams would provide a sound basis for the Earth Sheep to spare himself disrespect in later life.

Despite his tendency to bicker over the inconsequential at every turn, the Earth Sheep has one of the easiest Sheep natures to put up with. He knows very well that his survival depends on the goodwill he can muster among those who surround him. He hardly ever pushes his spats too far, causing rifts or break-ups. In fact, he displays almost no follow-through urge to stick up for his rights, demand his due or seek reparations. However, if he feels he has been wronged, he will have recourse to lawyers. The image of a lawyer "sticking up" for him where he cannot and will not do it for himself, is tempting to this kind of Sheep. Life with the Earth Sheep is usually suffused with a spirit of cooperation and gentility—unless he feels betrayed. Then, he blows his stack.

His lack of objectivity gets him into scrapes, however, particularly in the work hierarchy. Because of his native passivity and gift for concession and compromise, the Earth Sheep is sometimes blamed for wrongs he didn't commit. More ambitious, ruthless cohorts will happily take advantage of his laid-back, semi-unresponsive nature to leap over his desk in pursuit of their own selfish ends.

Ultimately, the biggest challenge to the Earth Sheep is simply to abide, but not necessarily to prevail.

More than anything, he wishes to be left to his own devices to follow his lucky stars and dream his impossible dreams without interference from more down-to-earth folk who feel that they are doing him a favor by bringing truth into his life.

It's a tricky and perilous management challenge both to remain dependent on the support of others and still maintain intact one's integrity and dreams. The tightrope he walks may cause a feeling of imbalance in the Earth Sheep's inner self. Physical symptoms may result which are solely manifestations of this lack of equilibrium. Epileptic seizures, spells of weakness and dark, gloomy depressions may crop up. When this happens, a good lover or lifelong crony or caring boss needs to be right there for his Earth Sheep. Nothing short of sitting him down with some old-fashioned straight talk and reassurance about his security will clear up the messy muddles into which this Sheep's fugitive psyche can lead him. When properly handled, the Earth Sheep's startling talents can afford him the highest kudos. His imagination knows no bounds. He is sympathetic and understands even the most incomprehensible human behavior. He is often a brilliant, sympathetic soul. But he has to watch out for his own scattiness. If not, he may well ruin his image in the eyes of those who respect him.

The Metal Sheep

1812 Franz Liszt, Napoleon III, Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Makepeace Thackeray, Théophile Gautier

1931 James Dean, Donald Barthelme, Anne Bancroft, Monica Vitti, Ettore Scola, Angie Dickinson, Lonnie Donegan, Diana Dors, Anita Ekberg, Mike Nichols, Barbara Walters, Tom Wolfe, Annie Girardot, Nelly Kaplan, Hal Linden, Leonard Nimoy, Olympia Dukakis, Leslie Caron, Shel Silverstein, Dan Rather, Rita Moreno, Claire Bloom, Toni Morrison, Nancy Wilson, Boris Yeltsin, Mikhail Gorbachev, Hal Linden, Rupert Murdoch, Willie Mays, Jacques Demy, Olympia Dukakis, Jackie Mason, Leslie Caron, Imelda Marcos, Andy Warhol, John Le Carré, Mickey Mantle, Desmond Tutu, Ike Turner, Mary Higgins Clark
Sheep turn up in the most unlikely places! I tell you that they are dependent and sometimes frail and super artistically creative? And then someone major and powerful like Gorbachev or Rupert Murdoch turns out to be a Sheep. The Metal Sheep seems, to the uninformed outsider, a gentle pushover. His unprepossessing, disheveled, casual style bespeaks only simplicity and innocence. But beware: although the influence of Metal does enhance the gentle Sheep's resolve, it also hardens his heart, causing him to become unnecessarily combative when dealing with others.

Sheep are generally non-confrontational and are known to have to depend on the kindness of strangers for their survival. At all costs, they must appear to be compromising, easy-going. This is as true of the Metal Sheep: he cannot and does not risk open conflict. Yet, as he is temperamental, he often feels interfered with and put upon. To avoid being visible and therefore doubly vulnerable, the combativeness in this subject goes underground. Metal Sheep delight in secret manipulation and subterfuge, and perform their most skillful string-pulling from behind the scenes.

For this reason, the Metal Sheep makes an easy-going friend but is a daunting adversary. He will never speak his mind in any controversy. He categorically refuses to deal one to one in open conflict. He/she will not take stands on any controversial subject nor will he brave danger for the sake of a good cause. The Metal Sheep favors underhanded means and if he/she does not get their way, they are quite capable of justifying even their most amoral behavior to themselves.

The wronged Metal Sheep is ridden with the need for revenge and will stop at nothing to gain ground against his (real or imagined) enemies.

At home in the nether regions of the collective unconscious, the Metal Sheep can readily pursue careers where knowledge of the inner workings of the human mind are a prerequisite. He will make an excellent

forecaster and interpreter of human behavior: a soothsayer or psychiatrist, an incisively charismatic actor or film director, a politician, a brilliant writer or singer or, more simply, a willing courtesan.

Alternatively, he might choose to stay at home and become an inventor, trying to concoct a gourmet elixir of youth, to make gold from aluminum foil or improve on some secret eavesdropping device.

Of all the Sheep types, this one is perhaps the most elementally lacking in a sense of urgency. He will not hurry. He insists on moving ahead in a leisurely way and hasn't got a clue how his lackadaisical behavior affects others.

This Sheep can rise to great heights by advancing square by square at his own languid pace. But because the subterranean is always pulling at him he often falls victim to self-duping bad habits, such as drug, alcohol or diabolical religious addictions.

A well-nurtured Metal Sheep's talent can bring him enormous rewards but he must watch out for a dangerous tendency to self-congratulatory horn blowing. Metal Sheep suffer from an excess of pride. Sometimes their vanity gets in the way of their common sense and scotches the possibility of reaching a desirable goal.

Remedy? Lots of tough love and no-nonsense nurturing may help to bring reality out of the basement of the Metal Sheep's mind and put his thoughts into better perspective.

The Water Sheep

1883 Lon Chaney, Douglas Fairbanks, Franz Kafka, Kahlil Gibran, Eubie Blake, Franz Kafka, Benito Mussolini, Coco Chanel

1943 Ben Kingsley, Arthur Ashe, Sharon Tate, Georgie Fame, Catherine Deneuve, Mike Leigh, Joe Frazier, Jim Morrison, George Harrison, Joni Mitchell, Mick Jagger, Billie Jean King, Johnny Hallyday, Jean Claude Killy, Sally Jesse Raphael, Lynn Redgrave, John Major, Leslie Uggams, Robert DeNiro, Chevy Chase, Sam Shepard, Lech Wallesla, Blythe Danner, John Major, Lynn Redgrave, Bob Woodward, Christopher Walken The Water Sheep's claim to fame is his skill at using his intuition. Of course, all Sheep are sensitive and pick up easily on feelings—but Water confers a special talent for intuiting the flavor and tone of even the most subtle of life's situations on this liquid variety of Sheep. Where hints of danger, twinges of fear or suggestions of sexuality or extraterrestrial activity may pass unnoticed under the noses of less perceptive folk, every nuance is picked up by the supremely impressionable Water Sheep. He seems able to understand without learning and to know certain things instinctively without necessarily having first understood them.

Although compassion is the emotion that can be most profoundly felt by him, the Water Sheep is oddly egocentric and quite unable to escape from his golden bubble of preoccupation with himself long enough to relate to those he might feel sorry for. He is neither a natural care provider nor is he very altruistic. Rather, the Water Sheep senses the way things are moving, then zigzags through the loaded minefields of life, relying solely on his inner radar to guide him. He seeks more to stave off danger and predict events for himself than to warn others of potential harm.

Water Sheep are intensely charming and sensual. They love being needed and adore having an audience. Adulation and applause provide approval and help to keep them moving. Appreciation serves to push them to heights they might not aspire to without outside urging. Their inner emotional structure is somewhat shaky so being encouraged, cheered and inspired by friends and family is of great assistance to them in making decisions, accomplishing tasks on time and leaping hurdles without the usual Sheeply pessimism or hesitation.

There is a kinky side to this Water Sheep's sexual character. The male of the species is amorous and

romantic and requires gobs of physical attention from females. In her geisha-like way, the sensuous woman Water Sheep also comes on very strong. Although quiet and unassuming, the Water Sheep lady is a true siren whose amiable sexual prowess is never a well-kept secret. In fact, nary a day goes by that this Sheep does not engage in sexual activity or fantasy. There is a strong propensity among Water Sheep to engage in group sex and other forms of aberrant and promiscuous activity.

When you get to know this Sheep well, you rapidly understand why this has often been known as the sign of the hippie or Bohemian. Water Sheep don't care to heed the rules and regulations of the standard social system. They prefer to remain outside, looking In, enjoying a certain remove from the mainstream and managing to hover about three feet over their own and others' heads.

Water Sheep, like their brothers and sisters of the other Sheep signs, frequently have genius. When they put this to practical use, the road ahead may quickly lead to stardom because, of all Sheep, this one knows best how to use his elbows to make contacts, open doors with his sexual charms and leap wantonly into the arms of opportunity. He knows instinctively how to travel in the "right" circles, get himself known to the "right" people and find ways to be noticed by influential types who can get him where he wants to be. This Sheep is never too pushy or boastful but, rather, plays his hand deftly by maintaining tight relations with influential people who can put him where he thinks he ought to be.

Although he doesn't usually make his will felt aggressively, the Water Sheep does not fancy being thwarted or interfered with. If he doesn't get his way, or feels he has been shunted aside, his well-developed sense of martyrdom rises straight to the surface. His whining can be heard for miles. The "Poor me" side of the ultra sensitive Water Sheep is absolutely his worst fault. If he can control this tendency, he will be a true charmer, a love of a well-mannered fellow and a terrifically amusing friend. But when that "Why me?" refrain rises from the depths of the silken *chaise longue*, I advise you to head for the hills and hide under an anonymous rock until the sniveling is over. And don't feel guilty. If you don't take care of poor little Water Sheep in his deepest chagrin, he will make it his business to see that somebody else does.

Just for fun have a look at this list of Sheep/Goat celebrities with their New Astrology™ signs and the Chinese element under which they were born. There is a generous surfeit of genius among the Sheep-born. They are artistic, brilliant and a tad loony tunes as well.

Emily Roeske Cancer/Goat metal

Madylin Sweeten Cancer/Goat metal

Jamie Lynn Spears Aries/Goat metal

Christina Ricci Aquarius/Goat earth

Matt Lawrence Aquarius/Goat earth

Nick Carter Aquarius/Goat earth

Jenson Button Capricorn/Goat earth

Kristanna Loken Sagittarius/Goat earth

Ryan Key Sagittarius/Goat earth

Adam Brody Sagittarius/Goat earth

Michael Owen Sagittarius/Goat earth

Rider Strong Sagittarius/Goat earth

Scott Robinson Scorpio/Goat earth

Trevor Penick Scorpio/Goat earth
Chris Joannou Scorpio/Goat earth
Ben Gillies Scorpio/Goat earth
Stacy Keibler Libra/Goat earth
Usher Libra/Goat earth
Mya Libra/Goat earth
Brandon Routh Libra/Goat earth
Shawn Ashmore Libra/Goat earth
Rachael Leigh Cook Libra/Goat earth
Erik-Michael Estrada Virgo/Goat earth
Ariana Richards Virgo/Goat earth
Pink Virgo/Goat earth
Chad Brannon Virgo/Goat earth
Shane Filan Cancer/Goat earth
Jesse Bradford Gemini/Goat earth
Pierre Bouvier Taurus/Goat earth
Lance Bass Taurus/Goat earth
Daniel Johns Taurus/Goat earth
Kate Hudson Aries/Goat earth
Claire Danes Aries/Goat earth
Keshia Knight Pulliam Aries/Goat earth
Heath Ledger Aries/Goat earth
Norah Jones Aries/Goat earth
Adam Levine Pisces/Goat earth
Benji and Joel Madden Pisces/Goat earth
Jennifer Love Hewitt Pisces/Goat earth
Brandy Aquarius/Goat earth
Mena Suvari Aquarius/Goat earth
Ziyi Zhang Aquarius/Goat earth
Josh Keaton Aquarius/Goat earth
Andrew Keegan Aquarius/Goat earth
Sarah McLachlan Aquarius/Goat fire
Mary Lou Retton Aquarius/Goat fire
LL Cool J Capricorn/Goat fire
Cuba Gooding, Jr. Capricorn/Goat fire

Criss Angel Sagittarius/Goat fire
Jamie Foxx Sagittarius/Goat fire
Tino Martinez Sagittarius/Goat fire
Gary Allan Sagittarius/Goat fire
Anna Nicole Smith Sagittarius/Goat fire
Salli Richardson Sagittarius/Goat fire
Lisa Bonet Scorpio/Goat fire
Michael Moorer Scorpio/Goat fire
Gavin Rossdale Scorpio/Goat fire
Julia Roberts Scorpio/Goat fire
Scott Weiland Scorpio/Goat fire
Dann Gillen Libra/Goat fire
Artie Lange Libra/Goat fire
Mike Malinin Libra/Goat fire
Guy Pearce Libra/Goat fire
Mira Sorvino Libra/Goat fire
Moon Unit Zappa Libra/Goat fire
Faith Hill Virgo/Goat fire
Jim Abbott Virgo/Goat fire
Maria Bartiromo Virgo/Goat fire
Harry Connick, Jr. Virgo/Goat fire
Layne Staley Leo/Goat fire
Deion Sanders Leo/Goat fire
Matt LeBlanc Leo/Goat fire
Vin Diesel Cancer/Goat fire
Will Ferrell Cancer/Goat fire
Pamela Anderson Cancer/Goat fire
Nicole Kidman Gemini/Goat fire
Max Casella Gemini/Goat fire
Anderson Cooper Gemini/Goat fire
Noel Gallagher Gemini/Goat fire
Glen Rice Gemini/Goat fire
Tim McGraw Taurus/Goat fire
Kane Taurus/Goat fire
Maria Bello Aries/Goat fire

Liz Phair Aries/Goat fire

Kurt Cobain Pisces/Goat fire

YOUR MONTHLY FORECASTS

for

ALL 12 WESTERN SIGNS

For 2015



ARIES

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR ARIES 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR ARIES

Valiant Aries,

2015 heralds a breakthrough year for you Aries. You will experience a real upswing in your domestic situation, and begin to seek (and find) ways to increase your waning self-confidence. You will spend more time with old friends and less time in solitude. Listen to those cronies of yours and heed their advice. To be able to follow this trend of general improvement, you must implement some of the changes yourself. This simply means grabbing tasty opportunities rather than finding reasons to let them pass you by.

In the romance department, you will find your most titillating prospects in a group of folks who, like yourself, have always wanted to take up ballroom dancing or join an amateur theatrical troupe. In short, you can find new love in 2015 - but only if you engage in extra curricular activities. Once you have found this person, vow to spend time getting to know them. Don't hook up with someone because of his or her good looks. Beauty really is only skin deep. In work situations, it's always better for Aries to be the boss. On the job, you are gifted for telling others what to do. But you'd rather not be dictated to. As you are a benevolent and generous boss, your employees and underlings are usually happy to bend over backward to please you. I see you moving house again in 2015. Maybe even to another city or far out in the countryside. This change of venue is one you have been dreaming of for some time. Be vigilant as, once again I say, 2015 is a year not to let any juicy opportunity pass you by. sw

ARIES January 2015

Many Aries start the Western calendar New Year with a sense of purpose. They expect to try their best and resolve to make improvements in all areas of their lives. This passion is commendable. But more

often than not, it is precisely what gets you into so much trouble. Ordinarily, your firm opinions may cause you to clash with Scorpio, Cancer, or possibly even Taurus.

But this January 2014 is one of the few times you rams will butt heads. This month bodes conflict with others of your same sign. Let's say both you and your co-worker are Aries. Normally you are pals. You are always willing to tackle projects together. But this year, when you both have the Aries January resolve to work harder and get promoted, your pal may compete with you. If you put in fifty hours, they'll do sixty. If you have a new proposal for the executives, she'll be there to criticize it. Even if you only want to borrow their stapler, you may have to pry it from their cold, dead hands. This period of contention will pass. But not immediately. Refrain from bringing it up to your crony. He or she has taken this tack for a personal reason which, in fact, has nothing to do with you.

Maintain steady sleeping habits, especially over the first and last week of the month. Despite petty squabbles, January can be a time of personal production. Everything you touch will magically come to life. At the same time, due to jealousy or competition, collaboration with others may be difficult. Keep planning to a minimum as you near the end of the Horse year. Look forward to the start of the mellower Sheep year on January 31, when dissension will first dissipate, then disappear. An event involving family will affect you emotionally in the final week of January. This incident will drastically change your schedule and may cause you untold amounts of stress. Time to start exercising again. At first, you can expect some soreness and muscle aches. The discomfort should only last a day or two. If you maintain your exercise program, by the end of the month, you will find your energy fully renewed and your nerves considerably soothed.

ARIES February 2015

A fresh wind of optimism, opportunity and the ability to communicate your heart's desire sweeps in at the end of the first week in February. Fortune belongs to those who perceive the abundance they have and build upon it. This is especially true for you at this time. In February, deepening your connection to what you believe in and what you stand for will open empowering doors. The theme of this period is to continue to maintain a single-minded focus, nurture brave dreams and allow yourself the freedom to be creative with your approaches to manifesting your vision for your life. This time of year can be distinguished as a proactive cycle. Becoming involved in causes, investing your time and 'going out on a limb' will bear fruit. Over the last few months, life has demanded more introspection from you. As self-examination is not one of your strong suits, those reflective months were not your favorites. Now, at the start of February, is when you can expect to begin to see the positive effects of all your ruminations.

With relationships, it is especially important not to let utopic expectations get in the way of authentic growth. Evolve alongside the closest person in your life. Be aware of not projecting what you want to see, but rather make an effort to see them as they truly are. Just like everything else your relationships are developing, unfolding and blossoming now. Following a single generous gesture - a personal gift: a call to say I love you, tickets to see their favorite theatrical event - you will notice a deepening and greater ease of dialogue. Romance works!

End of February is the time to bring your "A" game to the things you cherish. Take stock of your lifestyle. Are you "in over your head" with debt piling up and worries plaguing you? Have you bought too many gadgets? Vehicles? Trinkets? This would be the perfect time to begin to de-clutter your life. Stop Affluenza cold now. Nobody cares what you own or don't own. They like you because of your qualities of the heart and generous spirit.

ARIES March 2015

After a dynamic and encouraging month of February, March signals a slowdown. You will need to be

more receptive. Stand back and observe the way events have unfolded recently. You are being asked to increase your compassion factor. There are domestic challenges arising which demand that you balance understanding and yes maintain your limits. Whatever challenges come up this month - unexpected household expenses, kitchen accidents, sudden illness or trips to the ER - remember they can be overcome. March is the time to picture that mountain and visualize yourself placing one foot in front in front of the other. Sometimes we just need to gird our loins and barrel on through an obstacle course. Rather than mucking about inside the problem, visualize the goal. See it in your mind's eye. Then go there.

The blessing this month is the confidence you are gaining from experiencing yourself owning your personal authority and developing new strengths. The reward will be increased ability to take the lead and hands-on manage your own life. This month is also a time for assuming responsibility. This lunar full moon cycle demands that you respond to any and all surprises that drop out of the sky. This Moon also reminds you to maintain your usual ebullient sense of humor about it all. When the cat eats through the wire of your headphones, remember not to freak out. Eating through wires is "in his nature".

As the month begins to wrap up and you look back at how much you were able to accomplish, why not take a long weekend to rejuvenate? Allow yourself a well-earned unwind. Lie back in the hammock and - although contemplation is not your favorite toy - listen, reflect and assess your surroundings. Be in the moment. Pick up that gripping book you have been longing to read and sip some delectable herb tea. Hold the sugar.

ARIES April 2015

What better way to celebrate your time of year, than to welcome it with a small (but entertaining) dinner party. Lots of warm fuzzy expressions of friendship make their way to your place at the beginning of the month. You are dealing with a new kind of energy: a new person, a new position, a new social circle. All of these can introduce a number of unknowns. Of course it is these very unknowns that serve as portals. Pass through them to enjoy the opportunity for more personal fulfillment. Remember who has really been there for you during the more challenging times. The more we are thankful to the fates, the more abundance we attract. Your ace in the hole starts with honoring the blessings you already have.

Mid month you may begin to feel a little awkward around all this newness. Such a plethora of novelty can leave you craving the familiar. The challenge here lies within your ability to push yourself beyond your comfort zone. Remember that yoga posture you can't wait to get out of because it feels so uncomfortable, but then your teacher reminds to take a deep breath and relax into the stretch and all of a sudden you are able to go deeper into the strengthening aspects of the posture. In much the same way, Life is asking you to push through your discomfort and embrace the unknown - even if it's uncomfortable at first.

By the end of the month, you begin to feel more settled. You start to observe your natural rhythms and notice the importance of maintaining a healthy routine. Now is a great time to take notice of when you sleep more restfully, when you are at your most productive and when you need time alone. This last week is also a prime time to pay attention to getting all the nutrition you need from your diet. 5 vegetables and fruits per day is not nearly as daunting as it seems. Peeling carrots, slicing peaches and chopping onions provides excellent therapy.

ARIES May 2015

In May you find yourself expressing your needs in a new way. Values that you may have given importance to in the past are losing their importance. At this time you are drawn to make sense of what your core values really are. You long to see your deepest convictions reflected in your day-to-day world. Transformation has been a strong theme right from the beginning of the year. Now, in May, you begin to understand how to allow yourself the ability to try on different "costumes". You may start to see the

importance of allowing yourself flexibility in self-expression. The most important aspect of this cycle in your life is something we call FUN. Be playful. Enjoy the freedom to explore new avenues of intellectual or creative pursuits. Take up a sport or get back to an old hobby. Think outside whatever box you have been trapped in.

You might want to become involved in theatrics. Or why not take ballroom dance lessons? Join a gym for one month and set a goal to reach by the end of those 30 days. This month you have to engage the inner child you so often avoid, for fear of appearing foolish. Time for some satisfying mischief.

Mid month you may hit some unexpected bumps in the road. You could be moving through mental molasses with regard to business projects. We may not always know where our current new path is leading us. But whatever life is offering, is exactly what we need to improve our personal development. See an opportunity? Grab it. Go for it. Do not, however, let an outsider rush you to action. Trust your gut. Only make decisions when you have all the facts. As you wait for the right moment to move forward with business projects, take yourself out on a romantic date. Or spend some quality time on your own. Allow yourself the leisure to connect with what most inspires you. Lie back and welcome the uplifting aspects of life. Feel the thrills as they wash over you. Now you are getting closer to who you really are.

ARIES June 2015

The diverse elements of Venus splash temporary rain on the early days of June. It is as if sometimes you find yourself fumbling through the world on a Venusian cloud. Indeed your world sometimes feels like a romance novel. Yet, other days, you are anchored to prioritizing the bottom line and evaluating your net worth. How to maneuver this fiery and mercurial Venus will be the theme for you during the first part of the month. You may feel inspired one moment. And in the next you will want to be practical about affairs of the heart, business and creative endeavors.

An encounter with a person from your past could bring up old insecurities. Upon reflection about a past incident, you may begin to question your own role in it. The memory may even affect the way you engage (or don't) in your current relationships. This is an important time to remember to learn from your experience. There is great wisdom in being able to forgive ourselves for actions we engendered because we did not assess the scope of the fallout before we committed them. Approach all past hurts with compassion and objective understanding.

As you take an inventory of the strong emotions that you have experienced this month, you will find yourself becoming more confident. You are expanding your heart. Yet you are still grounded. You can more easily balance past and present. You are able to connect to your innermost desires in a non-apologetic way. The more you triumph and comprehend who you are, the better you will feel.

By the end of this month, you will be able to rise to the occasion in almost any setting. You are less hasty and take a few steps backward before diving into an empty swimming pool. You are allowing yourself to grow. Starting a hobby, or going back to an old one would be beneficial at this time. Allowing moments in your day for creative expression is a fine method of avoiding chronic disease and stress.

ARIES July 2015

This month you will spend some time relinquishing worn out relationships and shedding tired ways of experiencing the world. You have long been burdened by an unhealthy attachment to the past. A baseless sibling rivalry which persists despite your efforts to dismiss it. Anger and chagrin about a friend who suddenly stopped communicating. A lost love you cannot get over. You may find yourself sorting through old photos and fondly remembering a younger version of yourself and the others. You are longing for another period in your life. Inevitably this longing engenders a certain melancholy. If you persist in being nostalgic about pain, it will only drag you down. Try being homesick for past pleasures. Appreciate those

moments for the joy they brought you. You can crawl out of the dumps by concentrating on what you can do to make the future brighter and your place in it more positive.

The second part of July is a propitious time to clean out the garage, make sense of the storage unit or re-organize the basement or attic. Or give your car a detailed cleaning inside and out. Paint the house or revolutionize your personal image. Purging clears out the clutter. Too much stuff means your mind is a jumble. Toward the end of July, once you have got through the mental and material clean-up, start creating new memories. Do things which do not require acquiring more stuff. Eliminate vapid shopping. Allow yourself to engage in full-hearted laughter. Cultivate amusing people who bring light into your existence.

Last week of the month you can devote to gatherings and social events outside of the home. Take a class in photography. Learn how to dance the Zumba. Start taking yoga classes in earnest. Make it a point to join a gym and go there - if only just for fun. The barriers to your future happiness have, by now, been demolished. Now is the time to splurge on fun and games.

ARIES August 2015

The best thing to do when facing a crossroads is simply to acknowledge being pulled in different directions. Having difficulty deciding between two paths? Could mean you are not ready to make weighty decisions. In August, you find yourself weighing all possible outcomes. Writing lists of pros and cons can help you gain a more objective and grounded approach. You may get the urge to change residences or want to accept a job offer that would greatly impact your lifestyle. Yet, you hesitate. When new opportunities knock, they can remind us of how much we are attached to the life we are already living. Sometimes doors open, we peek through the crack and decide that instead of passing the threshold we ought to embrace and better appreciate what we have. Be patient with yourself. The first couple of weeks of August, the planets will encourage Aries to deepen their own private wisdom.

Mid month, you can take time to observe your relationships in an objective fashion. Make it a point to create more harmony with others. Contact friends you have lost touch with. A simple gesture of affection - an email or a phone call - is sometimes all it takes to renew acquaintance. You are ready to shift the relationship dynamic with an estranged family member. There is a ton of baggage to deal with there. You have been putting off clearing the air for too long. This is a providential time to hack away at the underbrush. Rid both of you of old quarrel and demolish petty jealousies. The other person may start out by fleeing and refusing to smoke the peace pipe with you. Insist. Don't give up. They need this truce as much as you do.

By the end of August you will feel lighter. Professional pressures have been relieved. Family harmony has been re-established. And you have more money. First off, plan and then take a marvelous trip somewhere you have never been. The moment you are sitting on that plane, you will be flying away from all past turpitudes, making a clean sweep of all the muddles you let slide for too long. At last, you will be able to think ahead without anxiety or fear clouding your vision.

ARIES September 2015

Back from your journey. Onward to playing catch-up. Now's the time to give some attention to routine matters. Schedule any overdue doctors appointments. Return calls. Make sure you are up to date with bills and have paid those irritating traffic tickets. Taking care of business in the first week of September will help make room for more enjoyment at the end of the month. You are your own taskmaster. Apply all your Aries vitality to taking care of the small things that hold your life together. Tackling the irksome details you have been putting off will calm the ceaseless rattling in your head. You are a person who *does* things. When you neglect your chores, you lose ground.

Family matters and all home-related activities come to the forefront in the second week of this month.

Decorating and gardening are rewarding ways to spend a weekend. How about downloading a few new recipes for family dinners or elegant dinner parties? In any case, this is the moment to dive into home-related matters. Hang those curtains you bought three months ago which have been molding in the trunk of your car. Walk the dog more often. Better still, let the dog walk you. 30 minutes minimum per day. Re-discover the joys of the ordinary.

Toward the end of September, a former lover, girlfriend or boyfriend suddenly returns into your sphere as if out of nowhere. I am not sure if they will ring your doorbell or be sitting on the front porch when you get home from work, but they are dead keen to see you and spend time with you again. This event may flummox you at first. But you can accept this person's presence in your life as benign. They are not attempting to re-kindle passions. They just want to re-hash a few memories. Be gracious. Pour them a drink and drag out some of those old photos. You two have a lot to talk about.

ARIES October 2015

October endows you with a more optimistic attitude about your lofty dreams. Believe it or not they are actually taking shape. Aspirations that in the past felt out of reach begin to appear attainable. My advice? Maintain an infinite possibility perspective whilst adhering to nuts and bolts approach. Consider putting on an exhibit of your art or photography work. Begin to consolidate your recipes and imagine a title for your first cookbook. Perhaps you have felt stumped for a marketing strategy. Research resources. Ask successful marketeers for tips. Thinking outside the box has multiple advantages for you at this time. Once you have begun to formulate your project, trust your ability to apply the necessary practical details. At this time you are becoming aware of financial opportunities. Open your mind to more inventive ways of working in creative commerce.

Unexpected news from friends or relatives in far away places trickles in throughout the month. You feel inspired by the connections. The world is vast indeed. But now you feel you are an integral part of it. Don't neglect those nice people who bothered to be back in touch. They care about you. Send them emails. Skype them once in awhile. Jet them off the CD you just discovered. If they don't live too far away, make the effort to drive over and have lunch. Or invite them to come to your place for a meal or even an overnight visit. The little gestures you make now are the glue which will hold friendships together.

You will no doubt take a sudden interest in the stewardship of the environment now. You are moved to make a donation, volunteer to clean up a road or rake up seaweed on a beach in your local community. The emphasis is on personal development through selfless acts of service. By participating in these efforts, you begin to be less self-involved and more aware of the rewards of belong to a collective. You see now that collaboration is both useful and enriching.

ARIES November 2015

The first part of November emphasizes further internal transformation. You will notice that your priorities are slowly shifting. You are avoiding extra curricular activities. You are easily tired, weary at the end of the day. Metamorphosis doesn't happen overnight. And big changes such as you are experiencing take a lot out of us. Time to allow yourself some breathing room. Observe the natural ebb and flow of your energy throughout the day. Take note of details such as what foods you crave and when you feel sleepy or slightly depressed. As Aries are not naturally contemplative, inner changes can actually be frightening. You are not altogether comfortable with the shifts you know are happening. Take this month to go with the flow.

In the middle of the month you can expect your attention to turn to finishing personal projects. You are still avoiding social commitments. Give yourself more freedom to just BE. The deadlines which once

emanated from a boss or some professional superior are on hold. You are the boss this month. Keep your mind's eye on the goals you plan to reach before the end of the Sheep year in February 2016. Take ample time to imagine yourself free of inappropriate career goals.

The last week of November presents some unpredictable occurrences - brief annoying illnesses, sudden short trips for business, guests you were not expecting. You were beginning to feel unencumbered by external forces. But we are all at the mercy of life's whims. From one day to the next you ascertain with no little exasperation that nothing is going as planned. My advice? Take a step back and observe yourself as you deal with each annoying interference as it comes along. Aries is the bravest of signs. Now is the time to use your innate aptitudes to soldier on through a bit of a muddle which will surely sort itself out come December.

ARIES December 2015

With all that has been going on inside your head, you have not been much preoccupied with the romantic side of your existence. If you have a steady partner or spouse, they are surely wondering where you have been. No cozy fireside chats. No long lie-ins on weekend mornings. Very little (if any) lusty lovemaking. This period of personal evolution for Aries has affected your private life. But luckily your basic good nature has not allowed for grouchiness or bad temper. Just introspection and a kind of uncharacteristic detachment.

This month you are ready to return to the kingdom of kissing and re-enter the land of LOVE. Shake yourself all over to remove the cobwebs. Then undertake to renew those stabs of passion you and your partner so love to share. Thoughtful gifts and candlelight dinners will help you make inroads. Leave sweet notes in special places (dresser drawers, bathroom mirrors, fridge front w magnets) so your main squeeze knows he or she is still your sweetheart. Don't forget to say "Thanks" a few million times for their patience and support during your quasi disappearance from their life.

In seeking to bring equilibrium and revive your body's balance, you really ought to start taking stock of your eating habits. Learn all you can about which organic foods will boost your energy level and will bring you a sense of empowerment. Make it a point to honor moderation during the holidays. Incorporate holistic sustainability into your lifestyle.

The end of the month signals a time of reconciliation. A surprise someone appears. Someone you need to set things straight with. They either turn up or phone you and insist on meeting with you somewhere outside your home or office. I advise you to insist on a public place - a restaurant or coffee shop etc. Then show up. Right away quick you will find out why they are suddenly hounding you. You kind of knew it all along. This matter concerns an inheritance. This person has always imagined they ought to have been included years ago in a will where you were a major beneficiary. It's crazy, but now they are claiming their share. Use all your diplomacy to defuse any latent anger you feel. Then give him or her your lawyer's phone number, shake hands and leave the premises.

Remain loyal to your personal beliefs and weed out incongruent relationships. Ditch the ones that feel inauthentic, trust your instincts and cut through feigned friendships. You want to create space in your life for more caring reciprocity. Loyalty to self is a priority. Taking care of you first may not please everyone in your entourage. That's their problem.

ARIES January 2016

The beginning of the New Year bodes a time for your most dynamic self to extend into all areas of your life. Engaging in new activities - taking a personal enrichment workshop, learning how to concoct a special new kind of exotic cuisine or simply deciding to get serious about your exercise routine etc. Establishing discipline with a new class or ongoing endeavor will help structure the whole year ahead. It

is far from a piece of cake to keep resolutions. But this coming Monkey year will demand that all Aries be focused on progress and quick on their feet.

Mid January 2016 you will be attracted to all things romantically delicious. You are being tempted and influenced by the sirens of love and voluptuousness. Be careful. Watch that Aries tendency to be impulsive. Your natural inclination to surrender to dangerous *liaisons* is at its peak. At this time, you are mesmerized by the possibility of multiple indulgences. Keep your sense of humor and your wits about you whilst you ride out this intoxicating wave. Examine your motives. If a love affair ignites now, make sure to think ahead to where it may lead. Any new crush could be posing as long term and, for multiple good reasons, turn out to be nothing more than a disappointing fling. Do some digging. Find out all about the person and their past before you fall hopelessly in love. Otherwise the last laugh may be on you.

You are about to live out very expansive 2016. In order to benefit from the bustle of the Monkey's frenetic energy, you should think long and hard about where you want to be in your personal development when this new Chinese year is done. Will you drop everything and escape to a desert island or cabin in the woods? Or will you return to the ranks of the "nine to fivers" whence you so cleverly emerged in one piece in 2015. Either way, you learned a great deal about yourself last year. Now it's time to put all that new self-knowledge into practice.

TAURUS

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR TAURUS 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: "**retrograde**".

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR TAURUS

Trusty Taurus,

You Taureans will spend a lot of time on 2015 re-working your plans and selecting some different paths to follow. To free up those blocked funds, you will want to re-evaluate a few of the financial decisions you made last year. Take all aspects of your life situation into consideration and carve out a budget for each. You will be pleasantly surprised at the outcome. Once the fiscal issues are behind you, there will be room for growth and change in many other areas of your lifestyle. First and foremost, you must consider initiating an exercise program. You don't move nearly enough, preferring sedentary habits such as reading, sitting at the computer or listening to music whilst watching the flowers grow. No need to join an expensive gym. Just force that lumbering body of yours to take simple, slow 30-minute walks 3 times a week. Best is to find a partner who likes your company. Set up a routine where you meet every other day to cover a certain amount of ground. Set goals.

Family, for example, will be favored in 2015 for Taurus. You may decide to rent a cottage on a lake somewhere beautiful or hire an apartment in Paris for a month and take your whole tribe on an extended holiday. Or... you could help your kids or nieces and nephews build a puppet theater or a playhouse in their garden. Taureans are not interfered with much by the Sheep sign. They can, however, become enamored of a blazingly artistic Sheep person, fall in mad, passionate love and decide to support their Sheep's caprices ever after. Fanciful Sheep know how to charm the sometimes rather stodgy Taurus and win their hearts and minds. You can look forward to an eventful - but not an excessively bumpy 2015. sw TAURUS January 2015

You and your partner may be managing the logistics of a major life change in early January. Whether you are preparing for a happy event, or fine-tuning the specifics of some type of ending, the two of you will

have to confer, agree and disagree on many details. Even if this is a positive transition, you may find managing all the minutiae rather stressful.

Maintain your sense of equilibrium through physical movement classes (yoga, Pilates, tai chi) as well as meditation. Watch what you eat. Taureans often have a damaging tendency to graze throughout the day. This habit can wreak havoc with your digestion. It can also disturb your sleep patterns. Especially avoid late-night snacking. Nobody can sleep well while digesting. It is also wise to put away your work at least an hour before bedtime. Otherwise your mind will remain in overdrive and won't quiet down when you need it to be rested in order to fall asleep. Prepare for bed. Healthy sleep requires a period of winding down in order to work properly.

If you are not careful at a social event around the 18th, you may find yourself in ridicule mode. You Taureans tend to have a strong penchant for blatant honesty. Please remember that, in some circumstances, this usually admirable trait can cause you to appear rude and out of line. Failure to weigh your words at this gathering could have a negative effect on several of your relationships. Unless you want your toes to tickle your tonsils, avoid making quick, off-the-cuff, snarky comments. Any attempts at biting humor are likely to fall flat at this time as well. Instead of being perceived as witty, your words may be seen as boorish and crude.

The end of the Year of the Horse may bring you an excellent opportunity for investment. Move with your usual slow deliberation. Do your due diligence. Research the companies and individuals involved carefully. Hold your Horses. Invest wisely. There is an excellent chance of your placement paying off handsomely in May of 2015.

TAURUS February 2015

At the beginning of February you will want to be very clear with your priorities. This year brings fertile opportunity and creative expansion for Taurus. You should feel at home with the moderate pacing of the Wood Sheep. In order to benefit most from this productive year, re-examine your beliefs and principles. Are your actions aligned with your dreams for the next few months?

With Mercury in Retrograde, in the first eleven days of the month, miscommunications and misunderstandings will no doubt occur. A person you esteem could step into your life and openly (and indiscreetly) challenge your approach to your work. Their style is very different from yours. Allow this confrontation to strengthen your methods. Grow and be open to learning new ways of executing projects. Step into the observer role. Maintain an objective perspective. As much as this person may ruffle your feathers, they are providing a golden opportunity for you to become more open-minded about your own strengths and weaknesses.

After the 16th you have a difficult time shaking a dark mood. You are irritable. Your fuse is shorter than usual. Be careful now not to be anxious or your health may be compromised by self-generated stress. Your anger at the system or at your current domestic picture is probably partially justifiable. But finding a way to express your anger without sinking into despair would help you avoid the blues. You tend to remain taciturn when ruffled. This is a mistake. Unexpressed feelings eat away at our general health. Why not see a counselor or start therapy with someone who comes recommended by a friend? Don't worry. Seeing a psychologist a few times doesn't mean you've gone crazy. Remember that "shrinks" are pros. They have heard dozens of stories like yours and not surprised at any secret beans you might spill. Therapists can provide you with shortcuts and tips to getting in touch with your emotions so you can better express them and avoid black moods.

TAURUS March 2015

The first part of March is all about uncovering what really inspires you. You might find yourself scouring

the garage on a hunt for that old ukulele you haven't played in over a decade. Or maybe you will drag out that tempting box of paints you left moldering in the basement before your last baby was born. Bringing your focus back to things you genuinely enjoy will replenish you. In reviewing your schedule, you realize that too much of your day is filled with tasks and drudgeries, which exercise a negative effect on your frame of mind. You feel put upon. Get back to the playful self you left behind with the ukulele and the paints. Find the old Taurus you used to like so well. Oh and yes. Focus on what YOU want to do - even if it means neglecting others' clamoring for attention.

After the eighteenth of March you get wind of some disapproval generated by a family member. This comes as a surprise. You have always felt close to this person. Now, all of a sudden, they are not only openly disapproving of the time you have been taking for yourself. They feel so neglected (and jealous) that they have been trying to influence other family members' opinions of you. Someone who approves of and admires your playful self of yore will disclose the identity of the nasty cousin or in-law who has been making disparaging remarks about you. This baseless gossip can trigger self-doubt and awaken insecurities that you have been consciously trying to leave behind. Next time the person in question is present at a family gathering, dare to bring up the subject of their rumors. Don't be afraid. This is your life. Your show. Besides, you have lots of family allies who will stand up for your right to pursue your own interests, opinions and lifestyle choices.

At the end of the month pop a bottle of champagne and schedule a long weekend away. Could be a spa, a resort or a cabin in the woods. You have been working through improving personal relationship dynamics, carrying overwhelming workloads and clearing out emotional baggage. On the 22nd the clouds part. Your senses are revived. If you have a special someone in your life, invite them to share your get-away. Or why not ask a good friend along for an utterly laid back weekend?

TAURUS April 2015

Your wild side continues to be tickled well into the month of April. For northern hemisphere folks, this titillation is utterly natural. It's spring in the north when coupling is at its most popular and love really is in the air. In the southern hemisphere, although temperatures are cooling, your sex drive doesn't seem to be following suit. You feel like making love - a lot! And you also wonder quite a bit about whether or not you ought to do a little straying from your main squeeze. My advice? Sit tight. Stay put. Dance with the girl or guy who brought you. At this time, any hint of infidelity might very well serve to collapse what has become a solid union between you and your partner. Temptations come and temptations go. But a steady long-term relationship - particularly for a stability-conscious Taurean such as you, is to be valued above any dalliance.

By mid-April, where decisions are concerned, the methodical part of you is ready and willing to follow your gut. You are quite easily able now to trouble shoot and solve thorny problems with amazing mental dexterity. This influx of speedy brainpower also greatly improves the success of your creative endeavors. All artistic collaborations and spiritual pursuits will move forward now. You will trust yourself more. Barreling ahead on instinct - although not your usual *modus operandi* - will serve you well. Not caring what others think or feel about your personal judgment sets you free.

The most challenging aspect of this month for you is the change it will bring. By the 3rd week of the month, you can sense an impending ending. New beginnings are around the corner. Transformation is nigh. For many Taurus people this can feel alarming. But do remember that holding onto the past gets us nowhere. Keep in mind that you have wanted to feel unstuck for a while. Ease into the shifts life is handing you. Take time to soak in a warm bath. Laze around the garden. Meditate. Watch the flowers bloom.

The last week of April is about your relationships. The harmonious ones, the unsettling ones, the silly ones, the work-related ones... they have all become slightly unmanageable. Interpersonal dynamics enrich our lives - even when they bring us to our knees. Nothing gives us more insight into our own psychological mechanism, than seeing ourselves reflected through the eyes of others. Listen now. Open your ears to what others think of you. Then tell them you will think hard about what you have heard. Then do that. Think hard about what you have heard and vow to make some radical changes in your behavior toward others.

TAURUS May 2015

Wealth prospects look good during the 1st and 2nd weeks of this month. So go ahead with well-calculated risks. Friends and associates will be helpful in unexpected ways and you gain from their references. Those in the export trades or stock & futures market can expect sudden speculative gains. Lady luck will also smile on racing enthusiasts. The networking you develop now will lead to lucrative cash deals that materialize later on in the coming months. A long drawn out conflict with regard to family matters and changing circumstances in your professional life could be resolved around the middle of this month. You may perceive a growing sense of responsibility and maturity welling up within you. You have a clearer vision of events and interactions with colleagues. Business meetings go well till the 18th.

The planet Mercury will be retrograde from May 18 till June 11. Read the fine print clearly before signing any documents. An ongoing dispute connected with an existing property may come to the forefront now. Give it the attention it needs. Legal matters will need careful maneuvering. Provided you approach the situation with an open mind there are signs of a truce. Real estate deals could be delayed for trifling reasons. Those who move into new houses may face some mechanical challenges for the next two weeks. Be careful of your choice of words in official communications. Caution will save you both misunderstandings and headaches.

Some of you may have given way to lusty temptation, which you now find difficult to face - or shake off. A tempestuous relationship you got yourself into will begin to break apart around the 23rd. So be prepared. In any case, it is unlikely that both of you will want to look back. You are likely to face a minor financial crisis around the 26th. It may be dicey, but you will manage it well. A fun-filled celebration is indicated at the end of the month. Participate. Help decorate. Jump right into the festive ambiance. You'll be surprised what a tonic effect joining in the fun has on your own mood.

TAURUS June 2015

Mercury retrograde continues till the 11th of this month. Don't rush into any impulsive buying or selling during this phase. First think and then act. If you are hasty, you are likely to land up in situations that you would regret later. What is true for business or work is also true for relationships. A few harsh words or acts of narrow mindedness from your end may spoil a beautiful friendship around the 7th or 8th. This behavior may stem from a feeling of rejection and stress due to the recent breakup. Control your emotions. An unexpected financial gain around the 12th will be a silver lining to a somewhat cloudy phase.

Work-related issues during the retrograde phase may fray your nerves. You feel detached within but still want a refreshing change. Why not take off on an adventurous road trip in the middle of the month all by yourself? Such solo expeditions where the itinerary is defined by the stretch of the road ahead are fun, fulfilling experiences. You get some much-needed uninterrupted silence, experience new things and create some fresh memories. Escape is an excellent way to recharge your batteries. Before you leave for the trip, make sure you have a map or GPS so that (even though you would prefer to wing it) you can find your way home. Before you go darting off into the sunset, have a trusted mechanic double check your vehicle's innards and don't forget to keep an emergency kit in the trunk.

The 24th to 30th are hectic days at work. You might be juggling several projects and tight deadlines. Some of you could have made tall claims about timing to your bosses or clients earlier. Missing deadlines could get you reprimanded. Before this situation arises, it may be prudent to come clean in advance. Schedule an emergency meeting. Admit that you underestimated the amount of time needed to execute the project. Luckily for you, some additional unforeseen factors beyond anyone's control may lead to some postponements and you won't be faulted or penalized.

TAURUS July 2015

The stars foretell a passionate involvement with religion, philosophy or meditation early this month. A chance visit with a friend or relative to a seminar on some occult topic between the 4th and the 9th may kindle this newfound interest. Read a few books to gain more insight. You are likely to get hooked and remain on a quest to acquire true knowledge and wisdom for several weeks. If you go deeper, things you learn may turn out to challenge your existing beliefs. You may find this new spirituality a bit overwhelming for you initially. But meeting supportive and like-minded individuals is the best way to make sure you don't wander into uncharted territory. Enroll in some local meditation and involve yourself in yoga classes.

Success and fame are knocking on the door between the 13th and the 17th for those who are connected in some way with the entertainment and glamour industry. Even those of you, who are working in any kind of creative field, will reap benefits now. Without making too much effort, you are likely to be thrust into the limelight. If you are involved in humanitarian work or politics, this phase is also favorable for fund-raising through media communication.

A minor health condition around the 25th may find you wondering if you ought to take the complaint to the doctor or not. Those headaches or joint pains may simply be diet or lifestyle-related. If you have a disturbed sleep pattern, it is likely to be the chief culprit. Restful sleep, regular eating habits and regular exercise are the keys to good health. But there may also be deeper medical causes that are best nipped in the bud. Why not try acupressure, acupuncture and homeopathy for a change? Find out if you have a clinic nearby and make an appointment for a consultation. In the long run, holistic healing therapies provide more relief than conventional medicine. If you allow yourself the luxury of trying alternative medicine, you will not be tempted to return to allopathic methods right away quick.

TAURUS August 2015

You may be asked to step into an authoritative role at your workplace early this month. There will be a few colleagues who dislike this change and express their resentment openly. Just ignore them for the time being. The very same people will become supportive allies later. Your status is raised in the eyes of your superiors and you are likely to be considered for a promotion. Active participation in and contribution to collaborative projects running across various teams will be the highlight. Meaningful discussions over lunches and dinners with powerful people will infuse you with renewed confidence in your abilities. In a nutshell – you are going places with your career.

You may feel that your love relationship is also going to go smoothly this month. However, your partner may see things a bit differently and complain around the 12th. He or she may find you too immersed in work and feel ignored. Relationships lose spark in the first place because of a communication gap. Spring a surprise on your partner. Delight him or her with a thoughtful gift. If both of you are working, a simple text message during the day can do wonders. But if you don't have the time to talk or send a message during the day, just go for evening walks together. Make it a point to do some "pillow talk" in the night. Rap about the day. Share and discuss future goals. You will both be surprised at how all barriers drop away. You will draw closer to each other in mind and body.

An older relative may offer you a generous gift in the last week of this month. There are no free lunches, so expect to see some hidden strings attached to this offering. The family member may want to give you their classy sedan or a 24 carat gold wristwatch. Or they may offer to buy you air tickets for an exotic vacation. Nice? Yes of course!! In return, they may expect you to visit them with family during your holidays. And also to help them out with their accounting and do their taxes. No harm actually. Go ahead and accept graciously. After all, what else is this life other than a little give and take?

TAURUS September 2015

Winds of change are blowing early this month. And you are likely to be torn between two situations. Someone in the senior management you got introduced to some time back may be instrumental in providing you with an exciting new opportunity around the 5th. There could be a hitch however. Although it's a plum job offer with a fantastic salary and benefits, accepting this once-in-a-lifetime chance means relocating - uprooting your family and altering your lifestyle. Maybe the relocation won't be permanent and you will get the chance to travel and work out of a particular exotic destination for a couple of months. Taking up this project will mean missing a major family event. Much hangs in the balance right now. Resist the temptation to be impulsive. Delay your decision till October.

Mercury will be retrograde from the 17th of this month and remains on its apparent backward course throughout this entire month. Keep communications simple as tangles are likely to occur. Avoid signing any compromising contracts or making long-term commitments. If you accept that new job offer, ensure that you sign on the dotted line either before or after the Mercury retrograde phase. Otherwise, the job or project you take on may prove to be of a temporary nature or have major hurdles associated with it.

You'll be approached with a request for financial assistance around the 25th. A friend or a sibling who has been unemployed for some time or is going through a rough patch may need your help to avoid eviction or foreclosure. Or perhaps someone close to your spouse has a business that fails. Leaving her or him unable to pay the bills for mounting health expenses is unthinkable. You may not be able to afford to assist them with money; but it may be possible for you to use your contacts to help them find new employment. Try to play the Good Samaritan here. Remember. If you do decide to help anyone financially, it's wise not to expect the money to be returned to you anytime soon.

TAURUS October 2015

Mercury is retrograde till October 9th. Travel glitches may cause headaches now. Allow extra time when driving to appointments. Traffic delays become more prevalent during these phases. If you plan to fly anywhere, be sure to bring plenty of reading material in case changes in flight schedules see you hanging out in the airport for several extra hours.

The planets are going to make you want to spend more time around young people in the middle of this month. And if you do so, you will gain emotional equilibrium from being more playful and forgetting your worries. If you are a parent, try and make time to play, read to or talk with your children. If you are not a parent, volunteer to take your grandchildren, nieces and nephews, the offspring of a friend or some underprivileged kids on an outing. Be both materially and emotionally generous with children now. Buy them treats, but also offer them to your best non-judgmental, non-condescending, undivided attention. Listen with patience to what they say. The kids will shower all their innocent love and affection on you.

"A fool and his money are soon parted" – goes the adage. Well, it's not about being foolish here, but don't fall for any advertising or huckstering gimmicks between the 25th and the 30th of October. Blind faith in somebody else's blarney may actually lead you to lose a bunch of your hard-earned money. There is never a shortage of charlatans, phony soothsayers or even personal trainers and coaches who claim to have the answers you need. So if you plan to hire a consultant to improve your business revenue or employing a

life coach, try asking them up front for a money-back guarantee. Always contact previous customers and verify all testimonials. If you are not confident in the abilities of the person in question, ask if your fee can be paid as commission after the promised results are attained.

TAURUS November 2015

You may experience a monetary shakeup early in this month. A sudden torrent of unexpected expenses hits you. This Tsunami of unexpected costs seems to be coming from all sides and angles. Your couch suddenly collapses. The kitchen pipes are screaming for a plumber. Your partner couldn't resist buying that expensive watch online and your car needs a new muffler. While your eyeballs are still twirling, a close relative suddenly turns up from overseas. He or she expects to be driven around the city and taken to rather lavish lunches and dinners. Go Dutch on restaurant bills to let your visiting fireman or woman know you are not exactly flush right at the moment. No shame in having a shortage of money these days. It's all the rage.

The mid month sees you juggling a variety of activities and trying to maintain your balance doing so. With little time, many things to handle and financial worries on top of that, one tends to either overeat or ingest junk foods at irregular times. You are likely to develop indigestion or intestinal problems from the 17th to the 21st. You could also put on several kilos in the process. Partial fasting on juices and fresh seasonal fruit will solve the problem. Still can't control that craving for unhealthy food? Try drinking fresh spinach juice before breakfast. Spinach juice decreases hedonic hunger by up to 95% and reduces weight as well.

You may find yourself developing a strange knack for mixing in others' concerns and interests. As a result, you find yourself sharing sometimes meddlesome advice. Playing cupid may not be part of your usual skill set, but the matchmaker in you surfaces from the 12th to the 20th. You could be assessing and exploring romantic possibilities for every partnerless person you know. You think your jolly single co-worker needs to meet your chubby neighbor. You can't help but imagine that your cousin's geeky brother-in-law would pair up nicely with your cousin's stepsister. You may think you are only being helpful. But the people you try to pair up may feel you are meddling in their lives. Restrain yourself.

TAURUS December 2015

Early December bodes life in the fast lane. You will find yourself bubbling with new ideas and aggressively pursuing fresh ventures in business or at work. The steps taken now will lay the foundation for success in the coming months. It is a good time to plan and organize your activities. Put on your thinking cap. Try and come up with future strategies. Or even think of enrolling yourself in an informative course to enhance your skills. Combining your creative or intellectual abilities and ideas with a friend or associate now can result in a money making enterprise or fortunate partnership for you.

You may witness a loud drama staged by an emotionally unstable friend at a public gathering around the 18th or 19th of this month. This outburst could be the result of excessive alcohol consumption or substance abuse. Though you have always offered sympathy and support to this volatile pal, self-indulgent theatrics is something you detest. Your patience with their antics may be worn out. Once you have calmed them down, why not suggest a detoxification program? If your friend laughs in your face and resists vehemently, it may be time to distance yourself. Some people simply need to learn their lessons the hard way. All 12-step programs tell us to make the suggestion only once. Then we must let go and let God who, as we already know, only helps those who help themselves.

Partying, socializing, meeting old cronies, visiting family, decorating the house and preparing for Christmas festivities - PLUS doing your gift shopping are going to take up most of your time during the last ten days of this month. Fortunately, a cozy warmth and joy underlies everything you're doing. The security of holiday time makes you feel good all over. Any hectic activity will seem to be padded with a

hefty slathering of love which erases all dissonance. Seasonal wishes from distant loved ones and visits from your parents and elders will enhance this feeling of goodwill toward your fellows. Make the most of 2015's holiday season. 2016 doesn't look quite so promising.

TAURUS January 2016

You are back from the holiday break with loving memories. Interest in spiritual matters may come to the fore again now. You rekindle a desire to read and learn more about the metaphysical and divine. Mercury takes another of its three-week retrograde journeys this month. It will run from January 5th through the 25th. During this period you may experience minor glitches: muddled travel plans, missed messages, crossed wires, and just plain glitches. Not disasters. Just mix-ups and snags. Unless you can get things done before the 25th, postpone important commitments, legal documents and major purchases until a day or so after Mercury goes direct. Contracts entered into during this phase normally need changes and alterations later.

Your attention scatters from the 12th to the 19th of the month. There is likely to be a slight fogginess in your perceptions. You may be at risk of making errors at work. Tasks that require focused thinking will become more challenging. With the ongoing retrograde Mercury phase, we need to keep Murphy's Law in mind – "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong". Don't be alarmed. Blame your passing brain fog on Mercury. A minor driving mishap is also possible now. Ensure that your vehicle insurance papers are up to date. Be careful while drafting official emails and confirm the addresses carefully before sending out anything confidential. Do not escalate any issue without grasping the full scope of the matter. A slight misunderstanding can snowball into a big controversy.

Express yourself after the 19th, when your thinking becomes clearer.

Your partner may have some good news or an interesting notion that he or she wants to share with you around the 26th. The news may be about a tempting job offer or a dazzling business opportunity. There could be more hard work and traveling involved for them. But there is much more money and improvement in status too. Offer them your creative input and ensure that you are supportive of his or her plans. Your partner's career may be about to take off to another level now and you will be proud of it.

GEMINI

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR GEMINI 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015
May 18 thru June 11, 2015
Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015
Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR GEMINI *Gregarious Gemini*,

In 2015, Geminis will fall prey to the great God of Change. Some of the modifications afoot are positive and will serve as guides for you to face the next (less secure) stages of your life. Not that you don't love change because you do. You adapt well and can beat the pants off any stodgy, stick-in-the-mud in an adjustment contest. But in 2015 certain of the revisions in your lifestyle will come as a surprise and disrupt what you imagined to be fairly smooth sailing. 2015 being a languorous Sheep Year, you will often be irritated at the snail's pace life imposes. But as you will be obliged to slow down anyway, you will have more time to do some deep thinking. Instead of being able to plan every stage of your life from birth to death, you will find yourself buffeted willy-nilly from romance to deadline to family responsibilities - and you will not be able to control a single event. This loss of power will be disconcerting. But it will lead to an awareness of self and an improvement in the eyes of others. You will be respected, admired and applauded this year.

In 2015 it's also likely you Geminis will fall in love... hard! Because of this special new connection, you may have to bring other romances to a halt. Where sex is concerned, you are often a player - seducing several and committing to none amuses you. However, this remarkable new love interest will alter all that. They will brook no hanky panky on your part. And they make it clear that it is: “my way or the highway”. So, in 2015 you will find yourself ending a few light-hearted dalliances and making that long-term commitment you have so cleverly been avoiding. Wait 18 months before deciding to marry. sw GEMINI January 2015

Your life may feel like it's on a slippery slope as 2015 commences. Change is the only constant. Unfortunately, many of these changes do not seem to be of your choosing. Step back and look at the situation in a detached manner. Perceive the ways in which your past actions could have set these unwanted changes in motion. In a way, you have been unconsciously emulating a speed demon - your

personal version of the Road Runner. Slow the pace. Then make haste to observe your own input where the major shifts are taking place. No matter the schisms, you are (unwittingly perhaps) partially responsible.

The obstacles you encounter this month arrive accompanied by hidden opportunities. If you only focus on the slamming doors, you will miss the open windows of opportunity. Those windows, by the way, may be on an entirely different wall than the one you're staring at. Chat up the new acquaintance you made at the New Year's party. They may be able to assist you in spotting those hitherto invisible open windows.

Once you crawl through the right window (and it may be a tight fit), everything changes for the better. This is likely to occur just before the end of the Year of the Horse on February 18th. Suddenly, opportunities and invitations abound. Friends whom you thought had dumped you call and invite you to dinner.

Colleagues who failed to return your calls or e-mails suddenly want your input on new projects. There is a long list of people wanting to friend you on Facebook. Most of them are friends of friends, distant acquaintances and even total strangers who have heard the growing buzz about your breakthrough project.

The one fly in the ointment is that you could experience an embarrassing health problem at this time. This is something you will want to keep confidential. Share the information only with one or two close confidants whom you absolutely trust. This ailment may take a while to resolve, but it won't be anything too grave.

GEMINI February 2015

Mercury remains retrograde till the 11th of this month. If you are looking for a job, unless unavoidable, it may be a good idea to apply after this date. However if you have been officially selected, sign the offer letter, but be sure to read everything thoroughly. There could be ambiguous clauses. No harm in seeking some more clarity. In case you are required to join a new job before the 11th, doing adequate research about your task and the company beforehand will create a good impression on your hiring manager. You may have joined at a senior position, Nonetheless, remember to behave like a newbie. Your coworkers and boss would like to see you well informed, not over-smart. So listen more during the initial few days. And talk less. Keep conversations on personal topics to a bare minimum before you get to know your colleagues really well. If there is a quality that will win you friends and well-wishers instantly, it is definitely humility.

Mid February is harbinger of a romantic and creative phase. You are likely to have a pleasant surprise from an attractive someone who shares your ideas and is on a similar wavelength. This person may be a part of your workplace. Unknown to you, he or she has been a secret and silent admirer all the while. Do we see some chemistry and sparks? Yes we do!!! A non-stop flow of communication between you is likely to dominate the scene this entire month. You are also going to be much sought after in social circles between the 15th to the 22nd.

You face a small challenge from the 27th to the 30th. It seems that, awhile back, because of a misunderstanding, you unwittingly hurt a close relative or a friend. You perceived the person who caused this misapprehension as an evil influence in your life. But it was, in fact, just a passing negative phase and you discovered your error in judgment much later. The incident is strongly etched in your memory. Your conscience pricks you on the subject from time to time. But ego and shame have been preventing you from approaching the actual person. Now is the time to let bygones be bygones and, if you can, make amends. You will be relieved. This *rapprochement* lifts a hefty weight from your heart.

GEMINI March 2015

It looks like you may be in teaching mode early in March. Are you thinking of providing some kind of tuitions? Do some research on the Web to see if there is an organization seeking adults to mentor or tutor

young people. At the same time, check to see if a community center or local library needs tutors for an after-school program. Maybe a professional organization in your field has a mentorship program which will afford you the opportunity to share your expertise. This volunteering will be a marvelous way for you to offer others the benefit of your accumulated wisdom. You are gifted for inspiring and offering practical advice to youngsters. Whatever happens, you will reap benefit from the relationships with the kids. And the children or teenagers will be thanking you for your invaluable help for many years to come.

The 14th and the 19th are prime dates to initiate “clearing out the clutter” activities in your home. Busy days ahead. Spending quality time with others is not going to be an option. You may have to tell your friends to excuse you. If there is too much to do, maybe your partner or a willing sibling could lend a helping hand. Clean out the attic or the basement. Good time to have a garage sale too. You are likely to get a good price for the items you put up. The garden, even your indoor plants, could use some seasonal pruning. Updating your kitchen would be another perfect focus. Or... why not repaint a room? Try a calming shade of salmon or peach.

A minor health issue connected to one of your parents is likely to bother you from the 21st to the 26th. It's nothing life threatening. So don't worry. But it's best to take them for thorough blood tests which include everything such as possible vitamin and mineral deficiencies, thyroid levels, cholesterol, liver and kidney function - the works! Once you have the test report in hand, it may also be a good idea to get them to an acupuncturist. Their medical condition could be easily healed in a couple of sessions, without recourse to any toxic medication.

GEMINI April 2015

Planets indicate a possible change of department or sector at your workplace early in April. Perhaps you agree to make a lateral move and join another team in the hope of further growth. It's not a bad idea. But, let's face it, we can't expect all our managers to shower us with affectionate smiles every day, can we? Your new reporting head may not share the same equations you shared with your earlier supervisor. You might also discover that dogs are not the only one to display territorial aggression. Human beings do it as well - especially when disgruntled colleagues lingering on in your new team who have been routinely ignored for promotions by upper management. Anyhow, don't get sucked into the vortex of office politics, even when and if you are provoked. Keep your head down. Disengage from gossipy conversations. Maintain your usual high level of efficiency. And stop waxing nostalgic about the jolly times you had with the previous manager. Working relationships will improve in June. New people take getting used to.

It's time for some sharing and caring from the 12th of this month. Someone in your friends' circle or the extended family could be going through a harrowing time. It could concern a relationship crisis. Or is it about health and financial instability that only compounds the issue further? While you need to do something to sort the person out, don't try to take on the entire burden yourself. Discuss the issue with others in the family or mutual friends who care. Get together and devise a plan of action. Perhaps each and every one of you could offer some financial aid. Agree to find ways to cheer up this poor soul. In this case, ten heads are better than one.

The 18th to 25th opportunities for planning and research about future foreign travel, business decisions and/or higher education are afoot. If there are new areas of interest that you know could increase your skill set and marketability, by all means jump at them. Any investment in furthering your knowledge will prove to be extremely lucrative. Don't be afraid to take the time and use the resources necessary. If you have been considering returning to school or embarking on a course of study, it is time to begin to collect information comparing the different programs available.

GEMINI May 2015

The planets major focus is on health and well being this month. Check up on your sex life. Is it active enough? Or have you become lazy? Could be due the condition of your body. You may have got fat. Or you're too skinny. You cannot see why anyone would want to make love with you. Early this month is an excellent time to kick off laziness patterns. You will have added energy and motivation to kick start a new diet or exercise program between the 4th and the 10th. If you are already active, you know what needs improvement. Perhaps you need to add more stretching to your routine. Signing up for a course in yoga and aerobics would be ideal. You may also want to review your diet. Adding organic fresh fruits and vegetables would be key. Visit a farmer's market to collect a delicious variety of produce. Cook up some vegetables more often. Cut back on meat and dairy products. Your energy levels will get a boost from maintaining a plant-based diet.

Your partner is likely to get into a bit of a tiff with your parents or siblings in middle of this month. It may be nothing to worry about. But what begins as a normal chat or conversation could stray into the sensitive zone and spur nasty remarks. If it does, be prepared to play diplomat. Don't take sides. How? Feign innocence. That way, you may succeed in saving yourself from the crossfire. But if things get too uncomfortable, do the next best thing. Inject a little humor into the fiery conversation. The "warring factions" will be disarmed by your incisive wit.

Mercury goes retrograde on the 19th of May and remains in apparent backward motion till the end of this month and beyond. Many of you Geminis may be looking at a change in residence by the end of this month. But take a pass on signing any new leases or binding contracts now. Hold off till June 11th. Any documents signed or written commitments made during this phase often need additions and alterations later. At your workplace, the atmosphere may turn chaotic. The pressure is on to complete half-completed tasks. Deadlines suddenly get shifted to yesterday and the day before. Computers malfunction. Photocopiers heat up. Voices grow shrill. Tempers flare. What to do? Take short breaks. To maintain your sanity, do some deep breathing exercises.

GEMINI June 2015

Wealth and finances have been somewhat stable in the last few months. The coffers are not exactly overflowing. But you aren't gasping for money either. Someone approaches you with a business proposal between the 3rd and the 7th of June. The outlay could prove to be a capital idea - if it is connected to real estate, finance or the food & beverage industry. But it could also entail an investment, which empties most of your savings account. Mercury is retrograde till the 11th anyway. Take some time to ponder the pros and cons and then decide. Study some existing franchises in this segment. Rushing immediately into anything new is not advised right now. An expensive kitchen appliance could suddenly malfunction and need repairs on the 12th.

Events may take a tense turn at your partner's workplace on the 16th of this month. There could be rumors of impending downsizing within the company. Although he or she should not be impacted now, the situation may change in the near future. Perhaps your partner ought to start prospecting for new work. The element of uncertainty which hovers at this time may give your partner a few sleepless nights. How about delivering a few reassuring magic words such as "Don't worry. Everything's going to be all right." Give your partner a few extra hugs. Remind them too that the planets indicate that they are likely to get another sterling job opportunity within the next three months.

Socializing and invitations abound after the 22nd. Friends, whom you worried had dumped you, call and invite you to dinner or a party. Colleagues who failed to return your calls or e-mails suddenly want your input on new projects. There could a long list of people wanting to befriend you on Facebook. If you operate a small home-based business, this is the perfect time to advertise and spread the word. Your newfound social success and increased income will help to reassure your love mate too. Let them know

that if all else fails, you will be there for them.

GEMINI July 2015

Enter July and the Venusian fragrance of romance is wafting through the air. Single? It's time to write and send small poems to that special someone. Why not also proffer some perfume, exotic flowers or chocolates - or even a piece of jewelry. Your crush is very likely to be swept off his or her feet. If said crush formerly saw you as invisible, he or she will view you with fresh eyes. Grab at this chance to get to know this person better. If you are happily married, engage in some exciting foreplay to breathe new life into your romance. If he or she felt a bit taken for granted before, now your spouse is going to be touched by the tenderness and playfulness you're bringing to your love life.

There's a strong possibility that the stork is paying a visit someone in your own or extended family in the middle of this month. Perhaps your new partner and you have decided to have a child together. Or if you have grown up children, there may be a grandchild on the way. Maybe one of your siblings or cousins is going to give birth or adopt. Celebration is nigh. A canine family member may also give birth. Or you could find a few teensy baby kittens under the bed or in a closet.

You should be in a mood to enhance your knowledge and learn some holistic health improvement techniques between the 24th to the 29th this month. Consider enrolling yourself for a few weekends in some self-help seminars in Chinese acupuncture, Yoga, Reiki, Pranic healing or even Neuro Linguistic Programming. Most of these methods claim that the root causes of physical illnesses are mainly mental and psychosomatic. Heal the mind, and the body heals itself. Initially, of course, the idea is to use these healing methods to help yourself. And who knows? Later on you might gain enough expertise to help others ease some of their aches and pains.

GEMINI August 2015

A youngster may need extra love and emotional support from you on the 6th or the 7th of this month. A sad face or cranky voice doesn't always mean that a child is immature or moody. If you are a parent, be particularly attentive to your offspring's emotional needs between the 3rd and the 8th. Speak to them in a comforting voice and listen patiently to their issues - however trivial they may seem to the grownup you. Work on strengthening your child's self esteem and courage. Compliment the child on something he or she has achieved. Our children aren't looking for lectures on self-improvement. Their tender hearts crave only the loving affection that only their parents can provide.

Your brain and heart are in sync between the 15th to the 20th. This is a capital phase. Your personal intuition is at its peak, so taking calculated risks in business could pay off handsomely. Because your sensitivity level is at an all time high, you are likely to notice and be able to benefit from a professional opportunity that others have overlooked. Business partners are supportive and career-related relationships are hitting on all cylinders. A chance meeting with someone powerful and wealthy at a social gathering will lead to further useful business contacts. If you pursue this person's friendship - even discreetly - you will profit from this association in the coming months. He or she could become a trustworthy mentor.

"Neither a borrower, nor a lender be". Said Shakespeare in Hamlet. Avoid lending money to anybody, especially close friends, from the 22nd to the 27th. If you do, chances are you won't see the money soon again. Additionally, don't co-sign any loans or stand as guarantor for anyone. Those of you who have existing personal or business loans should make serious attempts to close them out now. Be wary of a fast talker who comes to you with a proposition for investment after the 22nd. The planets indicate a danger of murky transactions - especially to do with property. Postpone any investment decisions until early September.

GEMINI September 2015

Looks like you will be part of a reunion of some sort between the 3rd and the 7th of this month. The focus is on relationships and family. Someone in your family of blood relations or a long term trusted friend will be returning to town after being gone for a long time. Their re-appearance may cause your eyes to moisten. It could even have you shedding tears of joy. This person is either a close friend, a sibling or a dear relative who's been in the armed forces. Their return is cause for celebration: picnics and barbecues. Dinners and buffet lunches. Long walks in the forest and trips to the beach where you can sit and talk for hours.

Mercury is in one of its retrograde periods starting from the 17th of this month. Be especially careful with your personal information. There is a danger of identity theft. Especially pay close attention to online shopping, stock trading or any other kind of monetary transaction that doesn't happen face to face. When and if you buy something online, prefer the cash-on-delivery option. At this time as well, someone may access your passwords and personal particulars online. Make it a habit to change your passwords often. Make them unique and as long as possible. Store them somewhere safe. Remember. Technology changes every day. And hackers become more and more adept at filching one's precious data. Make sure to check your credit card statements before paying them in case there are errors or intrusions.

During the last week of this month, you may be tempted to return to an addiction you had long since cast aside. If you have been abstaining from cigarettes, someone might see that you are stressed and offer you a smoke. Beware!!! Never dabble. If it's alcohol you are battling with, you could be invited to a cocktail party thrown by a close friend. If you fear being tired, angry or nervous at that shindig - stay away. Head for a nearby Starbucks and write some jolly e-mails.

GEMINI October 2015

Mercury is retrograde till the 9th of this month. Be sure not to take things too personally from the 4th to the 6th. Someone in your home or workplace may say offensive things. They don't really mean them. Not for you anyway. Their outburst occurs because their thinking is clouded and their communication skills are on pause! Back up your computer data. Ensure you have an anti virus installed. Don't purchase any big-ticket items, because they will often have flaws or issues that you weren't aware of! Of course, life doesn't stop just because of wacky planetary movement. So if you absolutely have to get that car, computer or iPhone, TRIPLE-check all the paperwork, and make sure you are given a warranty! Verify any information you're given relating to travel arrangements! Check flight timings, delays, baggage allowances, reservations... everything.

You may have agreed to join a novel business venture as a silent partner some time back. A couple close buddies met and convinced you to join their team. You could have second thoughts on the 12th or the 13th. Deep in your heart, you know that you are right. It would make more sense to invest in something sure. It might however be tricky to extricate your money at this point. Moreover, such a move could impact your friendships negatively. What price friendships however? What's the solution? Best-case scenario? Get together with your buddies and have a frank heart-to-heart. Explain that your hesitation is about ensuring your family's security. Admit that you need to recover the funds you lent them. You will be surprised how easily they let go and refund your money. That's a good sign. They are probably about to strike it rich with their novel venture.

Expect some work-related travel from the 24th to the 28th. If your partner can tag along, you are very likely to land the more lucrative contracts. You thrive on company and are encouraged by intimacy. On the financial front, you'll be comfortable. Do nonetheless avoid impulsive shopping. If you have been dreaming of owning a new house or a freshly minted vehicle, take a month or so to finalize your decision.

Your tendency to act first and think later might well undo you.

GEMINI November 2015

A heavy workload is predicted for early November. Get ready for a pile-up of projects. You'll wonder how it was that you ever complained about not having enough work. However, accept the fact that not everything on your plate needs urgent attention. There are some documents and red tape that can easily be stashed under your elbow and saved for later. By the 5th of this month, you realize that you need to be learning the art of working smarter instead of harder. If you have been a control freak, micro-managing everything, it's time to let go of your fear of delegating. Perfectionists often die young. Hand over some of your petty, time-consuming tasks and reclaim your lost social life. Just make sure to entrust those duties to people who deliver. Give them a list of tasks and clear instructions for implementing same. Set a completion date and establish a follow-up system.

The heavens indicate a phase of low energy and exhaustion from the 11th to the 15th of November. You are going to find it difficult to so much as crawl out of bed. No need to panic. The most miraculous elixir that nature created for us flows in our home taps. Hydrate! The body is made up of a majority of water, and flooding your system with fresh H2O makes your brain functions sharper. Water also keeps your mood from crashing, prevents headaches and wakes you up quicker than caffeine. Add some electrolytes to your glass or sip some haute coconut water for an extra boost. While you're at it, slip off for a spa day and restore yourself with some hydrotherapy and the company of a good friend. You will be back in action in no time.

Some minor injuries could trouble you between the 18th and the 28th. You may trip down the stairs and hurt your knees or sprain your wrist lifting weights at the gym. Or... you could be facing some dental surgery. There is a possibility of allergic reactions to prescribed antibiotics. Forewarn your surgeon of any allergies you know about. If you don't know, and they give you something allergy-inducing, be ready to get yourself to the emergency room ASAP.

GEMINI December 2015

Ego clashes with a colleague could upset your mood at the workplace from the 4th to the 6th. The two of you might simply not see eye-to-eye. You are so polarized in fact that compromise is impossible. In extreme cases, taking a time out may be the answer. Naturally, your inimical behavior toward each other can affect others working on the same task or project. When questioned by your boss, you feel a surge of anti-authoritarian feelings. No one much likes bosses; but if they are signing your paychecks, you must try to live up to their expectations. Don't shoot yourself in the foot with a rebellious rant. Or stage a big showdown with the senior management and mail in your resignation in a huff. Remain patient till the 9th. Quitting is not an option. If you must, seek employment elsewhere. Take your time. Earlier hostilities may blow over.

Expect some financial benefit to arrive between the 14th and the 18th. Perhaps a long-disputed insurance matter is finally settled in your favor. Or could it be that someone who borrowed money from you years ago makes good on a long-overdue loan? Small home-based businesses will flourish now. The customer base will start expanding faster. And you can expect even better results in the coming year. Try to allocate more funds for marketing during January. Build a better website. Spend a bit of money on SEO services. Book some newspaper advertisements. If properly husbanded, your investments will pay off handsomely now.

Expect to be hit by a wave of nostalgia from the 23rd to 26th, as loving memories from the past sweeten your heart this Christmas. These could be related to an ex whom you bumped into recently. Although you went your separate ways long ago, certain sentiments have their permanent places inside you. If you are

single, keep your eyes open, for you are likely to find someone special with whom you can share your innermost feelings very soon. If you have a new partner, you are going to get closer to each other now and create some magical memories.

GEMINI January 2016

Keep a watchful eye on your bank balance early this month. With detail-oriented Mercury turning retrograde from Jan 5th until Jan 25, money issues could get wonky. The backspin could easily thrust you into a cash crunch. Do not spend capriciously. If you have a larger purchase to make, try to hold off till March. Use Mercury retrograde's investigative energies to shop and find the best possible deal - perhaps one with a low-interest payment plan. Beware the retail therapy monster too. Splurging will only bring a temporary high. Take the usual Mercury retro precautions about backing up data, putting off signing contracts, etc. If surgery is advised, schedule it for after Mercury goes direct again on January 26th.

There could be some issues related to outstanding debt or shared property between the 12th and the 19th. If you have hungry creditors, be prepared to deal with collection calls this month. If you own property jointly with anyone else - an ex-spouse, a business partner, a sibling or parent - you may all be in a tizzy about how to handle that property. Any assets you acquired through inheritance may also be subjects of heated discussion. In any case, as you know, contractual documents should never be concretized during Mercury retrograde. It's a super time for contemplating tactics and planning strategies. Not for signing on the dotted line.

Have you been planning to take up a new hobby? Planets suggest you are going to engage in a new and unusual activity from the 23rd to the 27th. This novel pastime could be anything from learning to play an obscure musical instrument to enrolling yourself in some little-known martial arts classes that are not offered anywhere else in the world. Go ahead and permit yourself to invest some time and money in this arcane interest. At month's end, you may find yourself at odds with a charity group regarding their misuse of funds. You can either withdraw your support completely or blow the whistle and draw public attention to the organization's having fiddled the accounts. Lawsuits can get messy - especially when your opponent has scads more loot than you. I would think twice before whistling. But of course the final decision is up to you.

CANCER

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR CANCER 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR CANCER

Comfy Cancer,

2015 heralds a year of slimming for Cancers. When I say “slimming” I mean “downsizing” in more ways than one. First off, you will be more determined than ever to reduce spending and begin to take pleasure in activities which do not require dishing out great squanderous sums of money. You will gradually stop buying futilities.

Too, in the summer of 2015 you will begin to lose weight. Those extra kilos you have been wearing around town are soon to be history. You may not join a gym or become a fervent runner. But one day in June, 2015 you'll take stock. A furtive glance in the mirror or a glimpse of your reflection in a shop window as you pass will make the decision for you. No more sugars. A plant-based diet, devoid of dairy products will diminish those rolls of fat in days. The only fats you should ingest will be olive, canola and peanut oils. Start walking. First 15 mins a day. Then 30 minutes at least 3 times a week. Your body will melt. And so will your lover who was weary of watching you balloon and take up more and more room in bed. Increased passion, by the way, is the natural by-product of this entire 2015 process. For single Cancers, lusty romance comes along late in the year when you are feeling good about yourself.

After September, you will have become all feisty and refreshed. You'll engage in low cost hobbies and take up old pastimes you had left to rot. Finding the true Cancer person who was lying in wait underneath the money and the chubs, will be thrilling. Play the piano, take up painting again, get back to writing your novel or making patchwork quilts. In 2015 you will finally see the crucial connection between what you do and what results you get from doing it. 2015 portends a positive year ahead, chockablock with challenges designed to get and keep you lighter on your toes. sw

CANCER January 2015

The financial strain is likely to continue into the first month of the western New Year. But with the holidays past, you have fewer expenses. Continue to exercise your creative gifts to cope with this temporary lack of funds. If you crave new clothes, invite some friends over for a clothing swap meet. A jacket one friend no longer wears may be the perfect new addition to your own wardrobe. Surely you too have gobs of garments you have cast aside. Even other peoples' once-worn clothes can make you feel brand new. Or look into offering a class in one of your skill areas. Teach a language, invite people to study woodworking with you or take on some handyman chores for extra cash. Use your imagination to add a new stream of income. Coming up with novel ideas to augment your revenue is both fun and confidence building.

Your significant other has big plans for 2015. Resolutions to fulfill or items on a Bucket List to check off. Rein him/her in a bit. The resolutions in question could prove costly. Help your sweetie re-focus on whatever on the list can be accomplished with little or no money. Putting more energy into your romantic life will ease the tension you're both feeling. The recent holiday frenzy combined with the crimp in your spending may have put a damper on your passions. Rekindle those flames. Remember to be seductive and affectionate. Perhaps add some fresh, playful elements to your lovemaking. You are likely to make fireworks together right around the 12th of January. Have fun!

Tending to so many different people and projects may leave you feeling tired and depressed mid-month. Let the people close to you know nurturing is a two-way street. It's time for Cancer-Appreciation Day.

The new friend you made last year could help you make a breakthrough of some sort as the Year of the Horse draws to a close. Some surprising advice from this person points you toward a lucrative new business venture. Don't rush in too quickly. Take your time to examine all the details before you leap. As long as you prepare carefully and ask the right questions, this new idea can yield strong profits.

CANCER February 2015

Be careful at the beginning of this month! Mercury is still is retrograde. As always, be wary of making new business plans or starting new ventures during these iffy periods of time. Instead, take this opportunity to wrap up loose ends in your life. Finish the Great American Novel that you gave up writing halfway through. Catch back up with the yoga class you so casually dropped. Spend quality time with children.

Now, you will be able to see the results of your labors from the previous months. Despite your best efforts, your dating life may have been a little empty of late. You have sincerely tried meeting new people. And each time the meet-ups backfired. Perhaps you would like to forget about that surly Match.com date who broke one of your best wine glasses after you told them the relationship wasn't working. But you'll see. Later in February, just when your faith is waning, the man/woman of the moment will turn up. Might not be Mr. or Mrs. Right. But it could very well be Monsieur or Madame "Right Now". Yes. A foreigner with a charming accent who comes to you from out of nowhere. Would it not be fun to have someone exotic to share a heart-shaped cake with on Valentine's Day this year?

If you have been putting in extra effort in the workplace, it has not been in vain. Your boss has noticed. He/she may be about to make a contract commitment to you, in return. They might begin to entrust you with higher-level projects. Matters you were previously not sought out for. Remember. The rewards for your labors might not be immediate. Have patience. Keep up the solid work ethic. The real benefits and bonuses will come a bit later in the year.

Watch for a chance encounter after the 11th. A surprise someone will alter the course of your life. Do not shrink from or be cowed by their sudden appearance. You may, at first, view this interesting person as

intruding on your settled, organized life. But do not shun them. Their sage advice will change you for the better. Give a listen. Heed their counsel. Be sure you fully grasp the meaning and significance of what they have to impart.

CANCER March 2015

Cancer, looks like a period of expansion for your career/business. If you were thinking of taking a family vacation now, don't cancel it. But do postpone. Schedule your trip for another time. This month you want to be at work. Positive energy is everywhere for you now. Maybe it is time for a promotion. If not, do not worry. Gaining more experience in your field is its own reward. Your current employer might not value it, but your future one certainly will...

Also, take care not to lose yourself in your hobbies. As your workload increases, so will your stress. You will be tempted to retreat into your private pastimes. Please don't get swallowed up by the golf course or the trapped in the pages of your book club. The increased workload is a good thing. It will get you noticed. And business is healthy. Do not slack off now!

To deal with stress, make sure you exercise. Find ways to work out efficiently. For instance, a spinning class is a great way to stay in shape. It takes an hour or less, and believe me, you will feel it afterward! Plus, it is a great way to meet new people. Everyone is united by their purpose and their jealousy of the instructor for how easy he/she makes it seem. You could very well meet some new, like-minded friends this way.

Be wary of gossip, even within your family. You may have a child or sibling who is struggling right now. Protect them. They are going through a rough period. Could be substance abuse, mild depression or just adolescent rebellions for its own sake. But the end is in sight! They need you to understand and listen to them because not everyone in your family will. Surely you also trudged through some rough patches growing up. Show compassion but do not preach or sermonize.

CANCER April 2015

April continues your Sheep year theme of an explosive career progression. No one is handing you these changes—they are solely the results of your hard work. You spent the Wood Horse Year biding your time. But you were not idle—you took creative risks, made new friends and acted spontaneously. All of that progress will pay off throughout the Sheep year.

Some of your dreams from last year are becoming tangible. Perhaps your ambition was to open your own day care center (after witnessing the crazies running the local one). But finding funds was always impossible. Now, a person to whom you mentioned the idea to in passing might be about to come through with a hefty loan! It definitely pays to put yourself out there. You can't expect to get what you don't ask for. The more people in your network, the more likely a breakthrough such as this is to happen.

The rewards continue to roll in. Not only in your career, but also in your social reputation. Those in your circle have realized how reliable your friendship is. Others may be there when convenient for them, but you are always available for your loved ones when they need you. This may lead to unexpected consequences. If your friends throw you the surprise party you always secretly wanted, tell them how much their efforts mean to you. Make certain they know that you appreciate them as much as they do you.

Be careful to remain grounded after your business and social successes. As always, the tides of fortune ebb and flow. You never know whether someone else is having a particularly bad month. Take ownership of your successes. But remember that luck also helped you. Your coworker could be hustling to make an impression too, but the boss was away on business when he/she gave that fancy presentation. Own your success, but avoid rubbing it in other people's faces.

CANCER May 2015

Change is the theme this month. Matters you took for granted are shifting. Some of this may be sad. Your best friend of the last four years was essentially your conjoined twin. You did so much together, shared intimate secrets and life stories. It looks like fate will be taking the two of you in opposite directions. Difficult for you Cancer as you tend to cling to your affections with all claws. Stay in contact with your buddy. But please don't begrudge them their life choices. If they are moving away, it's because the move will bring them joy or a better job or a happier relationship. When we lose someone, no matter how much we miss them, more than anything we wish them happiness.

Get ready to work hard from now through the end of August. If you are in school, hit the books. Take care not to lose track of your goals or get distracted by your social life. It can be tempting to party down when your friends are all having fun on a school night. Staying cooped up is no doubt a sacrifice. But the parties will still be there when you have passed your exams with flying colors. Be more motivated than the festive rest of the crew. It may be boring now. But it will pay off in the long run.

Beginning in the second week of this month, your life will grow more hectic. It will be harder to keep your eyes focused on the light at the end of the tunnel. Plan something fun for the weekend. Work occupies so much of your time. Try to involve your significant other in your ideas. Because of your intensive grinding at the books, he/she may not be feeling so "significant" right now. If you have children, get a babysitter for a day. Absorb some culture. See a play or a gripping new movie. Enjoy your time alone with the person who has been there since the start of it all.

By the third week, Mercury is in retrograde again. You may experience some communications difficulties at this point. As always, be wary of irreversible business contracts. Steer clear of making lasting decisions. Use this time to formulate a new approach to old problems. Look at what has succeeded in the past. And examine what has failed. Once you have digested that information, you can go ahead (after Mercury goes direct) with plans you know will help you achieve.

CANCER June 2015

You have been toiling away on the job. Your mind is clouded. It is becoming difficult to separate yourself from your vocation. Now, at the beginning of the month, try using the outdoors: A walk in the park, a hike in the woods or even a dip in a lake or river will revitalize you. It's an understatement to say that you need a break. Fresh air alone is restorative. Add trees and water, rocks and rills and you have an unbeatable cocktail for decompressing. Forcing yourself to change the ambiance surrounding you will help you regain your sense of self. Whatever you are doing outdoors will refresh your thoughts. Give you time to ponder. You will find that managing a racing mind requires not concentration - but relaxation. Let go and Let Nature.

Starting on the 12th, Mercury goes direct. Breathe a sigh of relief. It is safe to take some chances again: open new doors, blaze new trails and even sign some contracts and make commitments you didn't dare engage in while Mercury was retrograde. Continue your outdoor activities. Remain vigilant. Do not get bogged down by duty and responsibility. Your Cancerian nature can be a gloomy one. Remain alert to signs of the blues. Fend them off with distracting activities - out of doors.

During this month of June, your attitude is going to shift. The previous months have been about reaping rewards. Now, you must remember why those accolades came along. If it's because you worked so zealously at your job, it may be time to turn your attention to more personal matters. Have you left Love? Family? Travel? Health? In the lurch?

Remind your significant other how much you appreciate him/her. Buy them a gift. Take them somewhere swanky and dimly lit. Renew your bonds by talking about old times and making plans for the future. Don't

neglect to honor and thank the crony (ies) who has (have) stuck by you through all the edgy times when you were not so easy to be around. Sit down and talk (no scolding) with your kids and spend quality time with parents and other relatives. Communicate. Cancers need closeness. Being too busy to feel that necessary intimacy can throw you into a minor depression. Take care not to lose sight of what's crucial to your well-being.

CANCER July 2015

July is always a good month to be a Cancer. Besides being your birthday month, this year the influx of rewards persists. Your superiors continue to be impressed with the efforts you are putting forth and will show their appreciation in myriad new ways. Moreover, one of your coworkers should be taking his or her vacation during the first couple weeks of July. This could provide an opportunity for you to shine. Take over some of the colleague's jobs. Work a bit of overtime. Visualize the raise you have been hoping would come your way - and it will!

Do not be afraid to voice intimate concerns with your better half. If you keep your issues to yourself, you may avoid a confrontation now, but you could doom your relationship to co-existing with terrible tensions caused by unspoken grievances. Your complaints (and theirs) need to be aired. Don't be shy. It is surprising how understanding your sweetheart can be. Letting them know how you really feel - even if it incites a minor battle - will clear the air and make your relationship stronger.

During the latter half of July, you will begin to notice a new wave of energy, which emanates from within. Harness it by using it to motivate your body into exercise mode. This vitality may take a mental form too. You feel renewed and inspired to finish household projects, complete business plans, refresh your tatty wardrobe or redesign your garden. As always - eat more veggies and fruits. Cut down on your meat intake. Avoid sugars.

Take pride in the achievements of others this month. Attend some key sports events and root for your favorite player (s). Take in the concerts and theatricals offered in your area. Show up at your kids' school plays and games. In short, absorb some local color. You will be entertained, enlightened and, in a roundabout way, brought closer to your family and to the community.

CANCER August 2015

August tickles you to relent on the hard-driving career focus. Contemplate instead what might happen if you quit your job and started your own business. Or what life might be like if you didn't quit your job, but instead let up a bit on the gas pedal at the workplace and took time to write a novel or compose some songs or learn how to draw and paint or play the trumpet.

If taking Tango lessons or learning Italian doesn't turn you on, direct your attention to the home front. Focus on your family. Ensure that the foundation is still solid. Take everyone on a short road trip. Most importantly, listen to your loved ones when they talk. Be on the lookout for sulky signs of unspoken resentments, jealousies or rivalries. Don't pry for information in front of the others. But do take the moody person aside to gently extract what's bothering them. Be compassionate. Even if their woes seem trivial to you. They weigh as much as a ton of bricks for them.

Beginning August 11, you will receive some good news from distant family members. Perhaps your second cousin can finally pay back the money he borrowed two years ago. Or your sister-in-law got pregnant at last. Or your Aunt Sally's dog had puppies. Whatever it is, as a family-loving Cancer, this news from afar will bring sunshine into the middle of your month.

August will also be a period of mental and intellectual expansion for you. New opportunities abound. Perhaps you have always wanted to continue your education, but never knew exactly what you wanted to

study. Ask around. Find a school or program that you are interested in. Or search online for courses which will eventually bring you the credits you need to graduate. It may take you a moment to dig and remember that when you were younger, you dreamed of being a nurse or a fireman. Later on, life caught you by surprise and you got thrown off course. Now's your chance. No harm in becoming a nurse's aide or a volunteer fireman. It might take a longer time to become a philosopher or a neurosurgeon. But if those high-falluting careers have always tempted you, start studying now.

CANCER September 2015

This is a good time to buy a car. If you grew up in a crowded city and never got your license because you were able to walk everywhere, it's time you undertook to obtain a driver's license. You cannot know ahead of time the thrilling independence which awaits you. When you can finally jump behind the wheel of a vehicle and get where you need to go at your own speed and on your own time, it will revolutionize your life. Your driver's permit will also please the people around you who have been toting you from party to work to shopping in their cars for way too many years.

September 2015 will be a good month to make a love commitment. Passion vibes seem to be oozing from the woodwork. Maybe the person you have been seeing needs a bit of prodding in order to feel the relationship as intensely as you do. Methods of seduction abound. You know the classics: chocolates, gifts, candlelight dinners. But with this one you want to be creative - to show your lover how much you care by some not-so-pedestrian means. I suggest you prepare a lavish picnic lunch and go somewhere leafy and lush. Or how about a ride out into the country where you can visit an old-fashioned farm stand and score some luscious veggies and fruits of the season? Probe a bit to see if your main squeeze has any secret desires that you can fulfill. Could be something as simple as wanting to visit a zoo. Or it could be something more daunting such as longing to visit the Eiffel Tower. Up to you to see if you can arrange to seduce this one without being corny.

Around the 17th, you begin to experience minor health problems. Still think you can do these deep squats when you hit the gym? Think again, amigo/a. Listen to your aching body. Get a general checkup. Conscientious doctors will order a blood test and verify your blood pressure and other vital signs. If your MD is not conscientious, see out a different one. Ask trustworthy friends and older people for advice.

CANCER October 2015

October is the crest of this year for you, Cancer. Come November, you could be facing one or two career challenges. But not quite yet! October is the month where you realize some of your personal and professional dreams. If you have been striving toward a certain goal, keep it up! Your labors are about to pay off. Now is not the time to give up on that girl/guy you've been crushing on. If the man/woman of your dreams is going to make a move in your direction, it's going to be now. Why not make some sort of romantic gesture to encourage them to air their feelings?

Your career is about to take off. That's not a bad thing, though. Thought you were going to be an English teacher, eh? Well, life has other plans. Perhaps another opportunity will open up, and you will join a new start-up. Don't ignore potential career options because they aren't what you were planning. Life laughs at plans. This is the time to try new things, because you are going to have to adapt, one way or another. Your career landscape is changing, and you will have to change with it.

Be careful of battles for power within your platonic or family relationships. Is it really all that important who gets to choose which TV show to watch on Thursday nights? Choose your battles. Don't sweat the small stuff. As a Cancer, you like rules and structure within your relationships. Some people step over the line now. Avoid their emotional blackmail. Don't pick up the bait. And especially...do not keep count of who wins arguments, who gets the last word, etc. Better to be happy than right.

CANCER November 2015

Cancer, this has been a great year for you up to this point. A lot of your puzzle pieces have fallen into place. But November will challenge you. Especially on the career front. In spite of all your earnest work over the previous months, you may lose some of your hard won gains. You may be tested by new management. Watch out for superiors who have just been promoted. They may want to make an example of somebody. Be invisible.

Keep your head down this month. Try not to draw too much attention to yourself. If your place of business is going through tough times, you can survive by maintaining your current course. Do not stress! Just maintain the status quo. This too shall pass. This is a bad time to decide to re-invent the company's business plan. The higher-ups are not in the right mood. Toe the company line.

It is important that you went out of your way to spend time with your family and supplement your attachments with them in previous months. It may not have seemed as though others appreciated it at the time. But your effort will bear fruit this month. If you have teenage kids, they will all of a sudden seem to realize how lucky they are to have you. Reinforcing family time with a moody teen can feel like herding cats. Communication with adolescents can be a struggle. But the more you exchange with them, the safer they will feel to spill their own beans.

Always remember to try to remain emotionally positive - even in trying periods. Be sure to surround yourself with people, places and things that make you happy. If you feel the need for some upbeat music or crave a favorite symphony, take your iPod to work. If you prefer exercise, then go to the park for a walk or a jog during your lunch break. Happy bees make the best honey.

CANCER December 2015

December provides a few more obstacles. But you have all the skills necessary to overcome them. You are equipped for battle. Instead of a sword, shield and horse, you have your work ethic, positive mindset and do-it-yourself abilities. These will carry you to victory in the fight against adversity!

Watch out for in fighting within your social circle. If Friend A and Friend B are involved in some kind of battle. Your job? Be Switzerland. You can never be an asset in a divorce settlement or other private war. It is possible to maintain a relationship with both parties. But whatever you do, don't take sides. If you try to hedge your bets and sympathize with both parties, your sympathies may come back and bite you in the derrière. When they try to convince you they're right and the other guy is wrong, change the subject.

In the latter half of the month, an old friend may join a new religion or espouse some odd beliefs. Could well be the last person you would expect to develop religious fervor. Do not judge or poke fun. If your inspired crony tries to convert you, don't resist too openly. Your defensiveness could incite the other person to commence some seriously annoying preaching. If you're lucky, he/she will be satisfied with saving his/her own soul.

This will be a good month for your physical health. Sure, you had pizza a couple more times than ought. But for whatever reason-genetics? A healthy attitude? You will be feeling amazingly chipper by the last two weeks of the month. Don't question why! Whether or not you have been hitting the gym, you will feel fit as a proverbial fiddle.

Finally: take a moment to appreciate all that life has given you in 2015. Too often, we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our own day-to-day existence. Set aside a little time each day to reflect on and cherish your life, your family, your friends, your strong mind. We take too little time for contemplation whilst struggling to stay alive on this busy thoroughfare called LIFE.

CANCER January 2016

Yippee! Your challenging period appears to be over. As we take stock of the year, you had meteoric changes, and then some tough months. In January, events plateau. Finally, you can take some time to breathe. Enjoy the fruits of your efforts. If you earned a lot of money this year, spend some of it. Take the family on a vacation. No family? No problem. Organize a camping or foreign country trip with friends. Change of venue creates new challenges for all. How do we operate this weird camping stove? Who knows how to pitch a tent? Does anybody know the German word for hot water? Should you report your lost passport to the police? Being out of one's usual water is a fabulous way to bolster old bonds and even create some new ones.

By the way, this is an optimum moment to investigate a place you've never been before. Research nearby natural attractions you have always been intrigued with. Often, we neglect to visit the sites closest to us. It seems almost too easy. Besides, Cancers can get very stuck in their ways. Break out of the cycle. Explore. Go with a pal. Or travel solo. Either way you will be thrilled by the wonders you can find right on your doorstep.

Work seems to level off again. You feel as though you're going nowhere. Treading water. Tread away! Just keep your longer-term goals in mind. Maybe you aren't working at your dream job or maximum speed right now. But you may be doing something that will lead to that ideal job? Or, if your dream job is to have no job at all, think seriously about starting your own business or pursuing artistic goals you have always set aside in favor of the race for a kind of success you never wanted in the first place.

LEO

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR LEO 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015
May 18 thru June 11, 2015
Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015
Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR LEO

Lorlady Leo,

In 2015 Leos will begin a whole new cycle of their lives. This sudden opening of the sluices will be caused by the passage of Jupiter in Leo until August. You and your entourage will notice a general enhancement of your basic qualities. You will display more warmth, magnanimity, open-handedness, devotion, organization and vigor. On the other hand, in 2015 your most common faults: imperiousness, vanity and obstinacy will be softened. In short, in the Year of the Sheep, Jupiter's influence will increase your effectiveness and make you lofty Leos easier to get close to. In 2015, Jupiter also endows Leo with renewed self-confidence and expands your previous viewpoint from navel to global. Travel is encouraged as is mixing with types of people formerly foreign to you. You might want to start learning a new language or take up kite surfing. 2015 will definitely expand your horizons - whether you like it or not.

Professionally, your reputation will improve. People who formerly doubted your capacity to carry through on complex missions will change their tunes. Someone whose performance you have long admired will solicit you as an associate or partner. Accept that offer. It will help you zero in on the dream you have too long been cogitating and not acting upon. Friendships will be renewed and family ties strengthened for Leos in 2015. Love in its purest form (loyal devotion) will be exhibited in your regard. Passion? There will be a few hot nights for Leos in 2015. But the emphasis in this year is not on lust. Your body is your castle. Care for it. Write the words: EXERCISE and DIET at the top of your self-improvement list for the Sheep Year. sw

LEO January 2015

The first month of the western New Year is often also the last month of the Chinese year. Take the time to

wrap up loose ends. This is a good time to get your financial house in order. Review your insurance policies, bringing them up-to-date if necessary. If you carry any credit card debt, see if it is possible to transfer it and garner a lower interest rate. Also banish chaos and clutter from your house. Re-organize your closets, chests of drawers and bookcases. Throw out what you do not use. Or give old clothes, etc. to a charity thrift shop. Make sure you know where belongings are stored so you can access what you need when you need it.

Organization may sound like a boring project. But in order for you to continue to reap the benefits of the new projects you set in motion in 2014, you want to avoid losing time to unnecessary muddle.

Around the middle of January, you may have to see a doctor for a minor health problem. Attend to this soon after it flares up to stem the problem at its inception. Your partner's health may also cause some concern. His/her problem may have deeper roots and require more attention. Do not let your sweetie ignore this health issue. Gently nag if you must to ensure this gets attention from an expert. Sooner rather than later is always best.

Someone at the office or on a work junket starts a flirtation with you. As a Leo, you naturally enjoy the attention. But stay within the boundaries of what is appropriate. A gathering of those in your line of work toward the end of the month may tempt you to go too far. A detour from fidelity just now will only lead to problems both at home and in your career. This lady or gentleman may be wildly attractive. But he/she is far less scrupulous than you think. Don't compromise yourself, even electronically through texts, emails or photos. Nothing is private anymore.

LEO February 2015

Leo, there is not much rest for you at the dawn of the Sheep Year. You must hit the ground running in February. Work, work and work some more. You may not be able to put in much quality time with your family or significant other. But that's okay. Focus on you. This is the year to focus on improving yourself and making personal gains. Be a little selfish. What are you waiting for?

Your financial goals are within reach at your job. You may feel like a mule chasing the carrot stick with the whole mill yoked to your back. However, there is a positive side to your hefty responsibilities. The higher-ups are aware that you have a workload worthy of Hercules. And they also know that you can handle it. Do not let your stress show. You must combine your workaholic attitude with an outward nonchalance. If you can pull this off, there may be a promotion or pay raise in your future. Not a bad way to begin the Chinese New Year.

However, you must bide your time at your job. Do not ask for a promotion now. Don't angle for praise from your boss. Retrograde Mercury is in effect until the 11th. Many lines of communication will be blocked. If you become too outspoken or opinionated, your superiors might get the wrong impression. Go with the flow. The recognition you so yearn for will come. You simply have to wait it out.

If you work in the arts, the third week of the month is the perfect time for a showcase. You may have been too shy to display your creations to the general public. No more Cowardly Lion! You are receiving a shot of cosmic courage. If you do not expect the best to happen, then it will not happen. Stick your neck out. "Derring do" may pay off with a big sale, a new connection or (at the very least) a hefty dose of renewed self-confidence.

LEO March 2015

March is another good month for the inventive types among us. The last few weeks may have given you more commercial success than is typical in your field. Now, you must develop a system to channel your recent accomplishments into long-term prosperity. Instead of trying to push for more sales, go back to the

drawing board and improve on your product. The creative juices will be flowing for the first half of this month. If you watch for them, you will be surprised at how many unique ideas bubble forth from you. Harness this energy. Create.

You are in the midst of a relatively uneventful stretch in your personal health. This is the perfect time to change up your diet and exercise routine. Try a new calisthenics program. Or, revive some old classics. Remember those cheesy 80's aerobics tapes you used to watch religiously? Check to see if they are gathering dust in your basement somewhere. Even if those pink leg warmers went out of style decades ago, you will be amazed at how fast you see real muscle results after performing those dance moves for a couple weeks.

The third week begins a trying time for your finances. Money will be tight for awhile. Your situation is only temporary. Greener pastures lie ahead. In the meantime, do not be fooled by the lure of easy money. Especially be on the lookout for pyramid schemes, Ponzi schemes or any other shady business ideas that promise huge returns on a small personal investment. You can be headstrong when it comes to money. Curb that spendy instinct right now.

Get out of the house on the weekends. Even the most dedicated workaholic needs some break time. You don't have to spend an arm and a leg, either. Research local deals. Groupon.com and LivingSocial.com offer discounts on all types of food, shopping and vacationing—all around the world. Or join your town citizenry by participating in their festivals of parades. Build sets. Join a theater troupe. Sometimes, you have to stick to a budget. But you can always find economical ways to relax.

LEO April 2015

This is the time for you to reap the rewards for your back-to-the-drawing-board innovations of the previous weeks. Last month, you laid the groundwork. Now, the benefits of this basis will be palpable. This applies to everyone, not only those who work in or with the arts. Every field rewards creativity. If you are in an industry that is traditionally run by the book, even the smallest innovations can be hugely important. If you are an accountant, perhaps you can come up with a more efficient way to tabulate people's earnings and save them money on taxes. After all, if Galileo had never questioned that the Earth was flat, scientists might still be working under that assumption today. The world needs more people who think outside the box.

If you have an idea for an invention—a new technology “app,” a website to streamline some process—this is the time to put it into action. Apply for a patent. Talk to a connection who is more technologically savvy than yourself. Only one person can make your dreams tangible—you. You have to take that first plunge.

Be sure to spend time with your loved ones, especially in the latter half of the month. Among your close friends, someone is mulling over a decision to move far away. Do not let this trouble you—your relationship is strong. You will remain close, in spirit if not in reality. But do of course take full advantage of the time you have together now. It is better to revel in the present than to fret about the future.

Watch your body language when you are around your family. You have a tendency to let trauma from work follow you home. You may continue to grumble or forget to brush off your bad mood even when you have left the office. Your loved ones may misinterpret this as your being angry with them. Take care to talk to them about them. About their concerns. Life, for them, is not always about you. Work hard to keep career and family separate. Develop these skills now, while work is relatively stress-free. If you work at keeping the lines of communication open, your efforts will pay off when trouble brews. Your generosity of spirit could make the difference between keeping your family together and tearing it asunder.

LEO May 2015

May might not be smooth sailing. This strife comes from outside. Choppy waters lie ahead. You could experience some unexpected adversity within your family. It is vital that you hone your dialogue skills in April. In these trying times, your family will look to you as an example. Show them how to weather a storm. For example: if your children are having trouble in school, make it clear you still love them, no matter what. Yes. They should work harder. Offer to help with homework. Make it clear that you love them to pieces. And that you will work together toward better academic results. This will pay endless dividends later...kids do not forget loving gestures such as these.

If your relationship with your spouse is sputtering, do not fret about your children noticing. They already have. Instead, concentrate on emphasizing to your brood that even if you and the mister/missus are having issues, you are still a family. Everyone has arguments. In the long term, a fight is a blip on the radar screen. Let your kids know that kith and kin are the most important things in your life.

It is important that you concentrate on your savings in May. Your finances will probably be fine, but in case something unexpected happens, it is better to be safe than sorry. Even if money is tight, see that you have enough stored in the bank to last you three months of unemployment. For one thing, this is a good habit to build. If you happen to lose your job at any point, you will have at least a small cushion to fall back on.

Even as other things fritter and deteriorate, your health is the best it has been in years. If you feel burdened by your finances or your familial problems, go to the gym. Or the track, or dance your butt off — however you enjoy physical exertion. Even if worry is gnawing at you, there is nothing like exercise to put everything in perspective. Set aside ample time for it. If you can include others, as in a softball game, a tennis match, a Tango class - all the better. It often feels much better to work out communally than alone.

LEO June 2015

Mercury is in retrograde until the 12th, so as always, be careful with binding decisions, changes and communications systems in your life. This is an unfavorable time to try new things. Instead, take this period to complete unfinished business. Follow up on old ideas. Finish incomplete writings. Hold off until the 12th to make any sweeping transformations in your life.

In the first half of the month, a radical change in the weather could coincide with an old flame coming back into your life. This may be a person with whom you were very passionate. For whatever reason, your relationship fizzled—perhaps he/she moved away, or you spent a summer apart. Do not be surprised if this person comes back into your life again. Maybe now is an opportunity to rekindle that old fire.

However, do not neglect the lessons of the past. You and your ex separated for a reason. It's unlikely you just drifted apart. The rift could have stemmed from an unavoidable side effect of living. On the other hand, you may have discovered that he or she was unfaithful, greedy or mentally unstable. Don't dive back into any murky waters! Even if this person appears to or promises to have cleaned up their act. Seduction always contains a certain measure of deceit. No matter how alluring the bait, take care not to fall into his or her trap again.

The latter half of June is an opportune time to develop a new or expand an old hobby. You have the capital and the free time. For inspiration, look back to activities you enjoyed as a child. If you loved toy cars...well, you may be in for an expensive hobby. If you enjoyed Lincoln Logs or Legos, perhaps you would enjoy building models. Tea parties and dolls might not have been your most cherished playthings. But maybe you liked designing clothes or riding your bike or roller skating. If you have been feeling lost in adulthood, renewing these ties to a simpler time can be cathartic.

LEO July 2015

This is an iffy juncture at which to exert yourself physically. Watch your health carefully in July. If you plan on attempting an intense new workout regime, like Cross-fit or hot yoga, delay it a couple weeks. Your health lies in a delicate balance. Try not to exacerbate any problems. Relax. Take it easy (physically, if not mentally). There will be plenty of time to tend to your own physical improvements. But now, the body needs to rest.

Do not be surprised if you encounter unexpected drama on the home front. Focus your undivided attention on any problems that arise. If you try to split your concentration between work and family at this point, you risk doing a poor job of both. Your family may not seem to appreciate your effort. But that is because emotions are running high. In the long run, you will be remembered and rewarded for your attention. If that sort of recognition is what you crave, you will need to practice patience. No applause is due you in July.

Career should take a backseat for you now. Take time off if you feel it is necessary. Management will be more understanding than you would expect. Even if some of your bosses seem to have perfect lives, trouble brews beneath the surface. They will not judge you for your personal problems. The skeletons in their closets look a lot worse than yours, even if theirs are better concealed.

If you are searching for a roommate now, choose carefully. There are a lot of undesirable options out there. It is vital that you find someone with similar habits to yours. You are not auditioning for a new best friend. You only need someone with whom you can co-habit with minimal stress. If you can afford it, pay the first month's rent by yourself. That will give you the time to properly scrutinize and interview potential options. Ask for references. And check them out. It is much better to fork over some extra money now than to entrap yourself in a disastrous living situation.

LEO August 2015

I hope you have been working on your penny-pinching skills. Because they will be tested in August. If you have money saved, you may need to withdraw it now. Perhaps you had grand designs for those savings. You wanted to invest them in a high-risk, high-reward portfolio in an attempt to become a quick millionaire. Well, think again. Putting food on the table must be your priority this month. You will have other chances to become the next great rags-to-riches mogul or mogulette.

It has been a costly year. Do not blame yourself if you failed to budget for these circumstances. There were expenditures that no one could have predicted. Such is life. Medical expenses, extracurricular expenses, athletic expenses...don't let those niggling worries keep you up at night. Things will balance out. Once you get through this stretch of choppy weather, there is only smooth sailing to look forward to.

Help may emanate from an unforeseen source. If you have recently gained your financial independence for the first time, don't be ashamed to crawl back to the good ol' parents for money. Ask for a loan. They will probably give you a gift. Times are tough for everyone. Employers demand experience. Entry-level jobs remain scarce and low-paying. You may have to endure a couple of false starts before you land on your feet permanently. If your parents do not help you, an unexpected benefactor may. Accept with grace. But do not compromise your freedom. Be sure that this spontaneous money is a gift, and not a loan. If you did not ask for this blessing, you do not have to repay it.

A new, joyful addition to your family awaits. It may be a new child. Perhaps a new in-law, marrying off that cousin whom seemed predestined for a life of solitude. Or this may even take the form of a freshly discovered lifelong friend. In these times of trouble, this new, unspoiled life will bring energy into yours. Welcome him or her with open arms. Your loved ones may not have predicted this addendum to your circle. It may be that someone unexpectedly gives birth late in life. Whatever the family adds to it - a pooch or an adopted gerbil - great shared pleasure will accompany their arrival.

LEO September 2015

This month will challenge your decision-making ability. You may be forced to prioritize between career and personal life. Which comes first? If you choose work, you may have to cancel an important personal date, bail on your friend's wedding or miss a child's graduation ceremony. If you decide to take time off to be with your family or friends, it could actually mean a demotion at work. It depends how ruthlessly your company sticks to their bottom line. They may want an employee who can devote a lot of overtime to their occupation. A person with few outside influences to distract them from maximum workplace efficiency. Is that you? If the answer is no, you could benefit from a career change.

As far as social events go, don't let the "Fear Of Missing Out" rule the day. Own your decision. If you choose to work instead of socializing and then see photos of all your friends having a great time at your favorite restaurant whilst you chose to work overtime, don't be too regretful. There were concrete reasons you could not attend. Understand that not much will be easy in September. You may risk angering all your friends or causing family to feel slighted. One day they too may have to make a similar choice. Only then will they fully appreciate your dilemma.

In the third week, you might be feeling emptiness in your life. You long for more companionship. The solution is simple: get yourself a pet! Now is a great time to invest in a furry creature to clutter up your household. If you or your roommates are allergic to such critters, there are lots of interesting alternatives (which may involve less work in the long run). Hypoallergenic cats and dogs, fish, frogs, etc. Even a hermit crab is a viable option. If you have children, don't think that getting them a pet will teach them responsibility and accountability. Kids do not take charge of feeding, walking or collecting the poop of pets. The cuddle them and play with them. Full stop. As always, avoid life-changing decisions after the 17th. Our old friend Mercury is meandering in the opposite direction again. Avenues of communication will grow murky.

LEO October 2015

Mercury remains in retrograde until the 9th. But don't let that spoil and otherwise clement October for you. In October, your life will get back on track. You should be able to stop drawing on your savings. Even though you knew this day would come, it is still a huge relief. It will be a relief to have natural peace of mind, without financial concerns gnawing at the edge of your consciousness.

Now that you can relax, set aside some time for self-reflection. Look back at the last couple months. Did you move closer to accomplishing your long-term goals? If not, ponder what you will do differently during the remaining months of the Sheep year to reach that point. Develop a plan. Most importantly, write said plan down. Your desired achievements may seem obvious now. But you run the risk of forgetting them once your social calendar fills up. A concrete list to follow will help you to see both the forest AND the trees.

This is a good period to buy some new appliances. Indulge your home a little bit. That dishwasher has been leaking fluid onto the floor for an unacceptable length of time. Aren't you tired of jamming old towels underneath it every time you have company? Check for sales in your local stores. If you have disposable income, buy locally (or as locally as possible). Bypass the big box stores in favor of a neighborhood staple. Remember. Down the line when this machine starts weeping puddles, the local guy will come right over and do the repair. You can wait eons for the Bigbox guy who will not only not fix it; he will charge you to not fix it. The original purchase may cost you a bit more, but the advantages will have ripple effects beyond what you can imagine. Bargains on used items. Quick fixes when small appliances break down. Buy local.

Prepare to make amends with the person you have been sparring with. The holidays are coming. A spirit of community is in the air. Don't be the sourpuss still holding a grudge at a family gathering. Smile and

give a cursory hug to your sworn enemy. Your warm embrace might not stop the war, but it will definitely win this particular battle.

LEO November 2015

November is the month when you should start to see some of your personal goals realized. If you are single, you may be in for a romantic dry spell. But the gains you make in your career will ease your heartache. Take advantage of your solitude to focus single-mindedly on career. Take a look at the list of goals you wrote down in October. Pick one or two, and concentrate on moving toward their completion. Rest assured that you will have few distractions in doing so.

Do not shrink from being cold and calculating. This is a good time to make connections, but not necessarily friends. These are contacts that will be able to help you better yourself in some way. If you meet someone and realize that you aren't destined for best-friend status, write down their contact information anyway. Their personality may grate on yours. But you don't have to like them in order to allow them to help you advance. Such a person may be able to tip you off to a new job, a cheaper car or a hidden gem of an apartment. Make an effort to build camaraderie of similar acquaintances for your personal needs. Networking is not only trendy. It's useful.

If you have long dreamt of learning a new language, the final week of November is an opportune starting point. Don't feel intimidated if you have been out of school for a few years. Investigate non-traditional teaching methods. There are online classes, computer programs and immersion courses. Everyone reacts differently to each method. Age is not the insurmountable obstacle people assume it to be. As an adult learner, think about the advantages of being more mature than a normal student. You can concentrate for longer periods of time. You are better motivated, because you have actually chosen (and paid for) your course of study. Stop doubting yourself, and dive in.

LEO December 2015

As the Sheep year reaches its penultimate month, your focus may begin to shift. You have been concentrating on bettering yourself. Now, it is time to broaden your scope. Your self-reflection has brought you to a level of inner peace that you had thought unreachable. (Don't worry if you aren't there yet—the process is ongoing for all of us! Even the Dalai Lama needs to work on things now and then...)

As December begins, use the vantage point of your newfound serenity to examine your life. Meditate on your career. You might realize that something omnipresent in your day-to-day life is making you unhappy. It is probably related to your choice of career path—your job may be dampening your spirits. Too often, we choose our line of work for the wrong reasons—money, ease or a sense of destiny. Reflect on the areas in which you are skilled. But—cross check them to make sure they make you happy. If you cannot derive satisfaction from your craft, then your talent is wasted.

You could take this minor epiphany as inspiration to completely change your career path. But for some, such a move is too radical. Often, a simple tweak is all that is necessary. Perhaps you are the editor of a fashion magazine. You may have realized that you revel in the process of creation, not that of editing the creations of others. That makes for a much easier career change than deciding to switch to brain surgery. In this vein, ponder slight changes within your current field.

Start to concoct a tentative budget for the coming year. I know it seems too far in advance. But it will be here before you know it. Take the financial lessons you learned from the past few months. Apply them. After pinching pennies for so long, you have a very accurate handle on how much money you truly need to get by. Set pen to paper before these lessons are buried in the sands of time. You will appreciate your preparations down the road, even if they feel a bit trite right now.

LEO January 2016

Avoid entering into political discussions with your friends in the first two weeks of January. If you do, you may end a friendship. This is a time of deep divides between personal philosophies. Some of your acquaintances have starkly different beliefs than you. The very tenets of their propos may surprise you. If you value their continued companionship, avoid politics. Governmental issues inspire a particular kind of inability to reason. Politics are the reason the expression “hot under the collar” was invented.

Social media is the most volatile arena. Remember that someone is always watching what you post. Unless you are up for a pitched battle, avoid writing incendiary comments on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. If you like scrapping about such matters, go for it. You will be judged. But maybe you don't much care what others think. Leos are often stronger than their adversaries. But they are not always stealthier.

This will be a transitional month for you. If you are a single Leo, you may be waking from a long period of social hibernation. You may feel rusty. Even talking to the opposite sex may seem awkward after so many nights in front of the computer. Fear not, oh timid Don Juan/Juanita. This shrinking violet sensation is temporary. Early as next month, your fluttery nerves will be a distant memory. There is true passion on the near horizon for you.

You should enter a period of familial bliss following the holidays. After a time of focusing on yourself, your parents in particular will be ecstatic at having you around more often. Plus which, it feels good to be missed. But it also feels good to be appreciated. Bask in their love. Try to give as much as you take.

During the last week of the month, set aside time to meditate on your gains from the year. You should have preserved your list of goals from October. Give it a good look. Do not be demoralized if you didn't accomplish everything on your lineup! Even checking off one item is a victory. Revel in what you have done. And never stop pushing for what you desire.

VIRGO

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR VIRGO 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR VIRGO

Virtuous Virgo,

2015 brings subtle changes to the lives of Virgos. At first, you will hardly notice them. Many of these transformations come in the form of new and unusual opportunities. If you apply yourself and snap up these chances for displaying your best qualities, you will not only be noticed - you will be handsomely rewarded for your efforts. The best part of your year begins in April. Before that, there will be a few snags and challenges both in the romance and money departments. You will of course overcome these minor difficulties because you are a Virgo and Virgos know how to analyze obstacles and suss out answers. During the thorny first few months, of this year, don't be too proud to ask friends and family for assistance and even small loans. “Pride comes before the fall.” Rather than plummet, humble yourself to admitting you need some help.

You will finally be able to breathe easy in April when your career goals begin to take shape. You could be asked to switch departments or assume more responsibility at work. You might even be asked to consider relocating to another office in a new city. Weigh the pros and cons. If you have to leave too many cronies, connections and family members behind, you may be obliged to refuse the offer. If, however, the place they want to send you sings your song, go for it. These chances don't come along every 24 hours. Spend more time with close family members - especially the elderly. Teach your grandma how to use an Ipad. Show your Old Uncle Louie how to operate his smartphone. Give your mom e-mail lessons and teach your dad how to play video games. There is an added value in cultivating these attachments: you can ask a lot of questions about your own childhood and begin to make sense out of some of your heaviest emotional baggage. sw

VIRGO January 2015

Someone you dislike has moved into your neighborhood. You don't yet know this individual very well. But he or she still manages to get on your nerves. You were able to be polite to this person for a short time, while still maintaining your distance. Now this character is ringing you almost every day. You worry that he or she will start dropping by unannounced, expecting to sit and gossip over coffee. This person is both determined and needy. Could be a Dog who needs your company or a Sheep person in need of reassurance. But you don't have any comfort or companionship to spare. Set clear boundaries. Say NO. Explain, if you must, that you're writing a book or teaching someone a foreign language on Skype or practicing a musical instrument for 6 hours a day. Make very clear that your activities cannot be disturbed. Make clear that you can't concentrate if anyone else is in the vicinity. If you set limits and stick to them, he or she will eventually get your drift and begin to perceive you as their "off limits" neighbor.

Inspiration strikes around the 16th of the month. You feel charged with enthusiasm for an adjunct project. You may want to find someone to collaborate with on this one. This is an especially fruitful time for you to begin creative partnerships. That unusual person you met at the class you took back in November might offer some intriguing perspectives.

You are financially flush right now, but avoid any huge new purchases or weighty investments. Major expenditures during this time are likely to fail you in some way. A car you purchase during this period turns out to be a lemon. The apartment building you buy as an income property turns out to have hidden structural problems. If you take a holiday trip right now, the weather is likely to sabotage your fun. The expensive oil painting you acquire now could turn out to be a forgery. Sew your pockets shut.

You will have to resist the temptation to say, "I told you so" to a good friend later this month. Someone ignored your good advice a while back. Now, as a result, that pal is going through a difficult time. Avoid even the slightest hint of judgment. Instead, be encouraging, supportive and useful. Lend an ear and a shoulder to cry on. But do continue not to lend money.

VIRGO February 2015

Virgo, the year of the Sheep will present you with many challenges. Fear not. Your full-steam-ahead attitude and propensity for hard work will see you through. And when all is said and done, you will be stronger for your hardships.

The Chinese year begins with a busy week at your place of business. Cross the threshold with an intense focus. You will need it. Honey is in high demand, and all the bees have their work cut out for them. This frantic period should only last a week or so. Everything that seemed so important for that week was merely a diversion, intended to draw attention from the possibility of real career upheaval. You will soon face some tough decisions in that regard. The choices you make now will have a lasting impact. So keep in mind your long-term goals. They will guide you when the path is unclear. When searching for a resolution, ask yourself: will this determination get me closer to my desired end result? If the answer is no, reconsider.

As if you needed another complication, Mercury is in retrograde until the 12th. So if you are contemplating irreversible changes, delay them until then. Systems of communication are very cloudy at this juncture. In addition, people are flighty—beware of any agreements made or deals struck. Your potential partner may change his or her mind faster than a celebrity marriage fizzles.

By the final week, the hour of reckoning is nigh. To power through this trying time in your career, certain elements of your private life might fall to the wayside. If you are in a relationship, this will be a test of your partner's commitment. Explain to him or her that it will be a busy month. You might not have much time to spare for them. If they are still by your side when March begins, you have found yourself a keeper.

VIRGO March 2015

Beware of a preexisting health problem flaring up in the beginning of March. If you are diabetic, monitor your insulin closely. And don't cheat! Those pastries or Pop-Tarts may be filled with sugary heaven. But it will not be worth the hassle if you wake up in the hospital, your final memory that of licking jam off your fingers before you passed out.

You have the upper hand in this particular battle with your body. You can avoid many problems if you trim some of the junk from your diet. As always, exercise will help too. In this case, however, eating healthier will provide the stronger benefits. You know what you have to do. No one is asking for perfection. As with your career, keep an eye on your long-term goals. One can of Coca-Cola guzzled is a drop of water in the sea. On the other hand, if you are eating sugar-encrusted cereal every meal or downing a liter of soda with every lunch, take a look in the mirror. A few minor nutritional tweaks will set you on the right path. If you can change your eating habits for the better, you will be healthier in the long run.

Halfway through the month, you may have to make some important family decisions. These might be more painful than the workplace changes were. Or, they might be mere bumps on the road to eternal happiness. Either way, your problems will only worsen as you become more stressed out. The more anxious you are, the higher your voice will rise, the more defensive your partner will get, and the worse the argument will become. So practice breathing exercises. Inhaling deeply and slowly does wonders to slow the heart rate. And don't think too hard about your personal problems. You will simply over-analyze the situation. If there is a spat, you must be the voice of reason. If not, the scene has the potential to snowball into something worse. Do not let that happen!

VIRGO April 2015

Relief at last. Your trials are over, for the time being. How did it feel to be baptized by fire? Your familial struggles have made you stronger as a unit. Now that you know you can survive the worst, your bond is tighter. The last few months may have felt like a punishment for some unknown infraction. But the silver lining is your current feeling of security in your personal life.

Recently, you may have made abrupt changes in your career (or had such changes forced upon you). Maybe you left your job. Without the safety net it granted you, your life seems to be in shambles. This is an excellent time to restructure. Make sure you do not jump into another employment situation with the same problems as your last one. Analyze the specific elements of your last situation that you disliked. Now, you know what to avoid when searching for a new job. Take care not to make the same mistakes twice.

Around the 15th, you may be mesmerized by an unwholesome-looking addition to your neighborhood. This may take the form of a creepy-looking older gentleman. Or perhaps, a group of intimidating young men is moving into the home adjacent yours. Although you are fearful, these new neighbors are not what they seem. Over time, you will come to learn that they are good hearts. This will serve you well. There will come a time when all other help will desert you. This new neighbor will rescue you when there is nowhere left to turn.

All in all, April provides some meaning to the hardships you have undergone. Not everything has been solved. But you can start to see the deeper meaning, or at least the possibility of a deeper meaning, behind the events that have transpired. You had a shakeup at work. Well, that frees you to pursue what you really desire. You experienced instability in your personal life. So now you know who is really committed to you. They are the ones who remain by your side. Be sure to convey your appreciation to them. A little affirmation goes a long way.

VIRGO May 2015

Virgo, strict control over your spending has paid off. Your finances are extremely stable. You are able to

budget very accurately for your expenditures on a month-by-month basis. Good work! Bask in your success. Your planning and self-control led you to this point.

Now, you are going to be tempted to make some large purchases, especially in the beginning of the month. Sorely, sorely tempted. Yes, you could probably afford that new BMW coupe...if you want to dine on microwavable noodles for the next three years. Yes, that new two-meter wide television would look great next to your faux fireplace. But you will need to ship your kids off to work in the coal mines in order to make the payments. Resist, resist, resist! If you can sail past these seductive Sirens without lingering, you have only a couple more months of saving before you can buy the things you truly want (and need). Remain Virgo strong!

Our old friend Mercury is back to his meandering ways, starting on the 18th. Be wary of new propositions or fresh ventures. Instead, this is a time best spent completing unfinished business. Although the urge will be strong to begin something new, return to projects that you left undeveloped. This could take the form of a novel you were reading (or writing!), a romance that did not end with closure or a painting you abandoned with only the background complete.

Whether you are looking for love or not, a figure from your romantic past is likely to appear in the latter stages of the month. If the door to your heart is still open, this may be more than a passing fling. Perhaps he or she is here to stay this time. Go with it. Sometimes, circumstances prevent us from getting what we really desire. Now is your chance to make up for lost time. If your schedules are now as compatible as your personalities, expect fireworks.

VIRGO June 2015

As June dawns you vow to make more time to spend with your loved ones. You have expended plenty of energy working overtime. Staying late at the office, picking up another night shift—these extra efforts can wear on the bonds in your personal life. But now, with Mercury in retrograde until the 12th, there is not much else you can consolidate at the moment. Why not relax and have a bit of family fun? Don't script it. If your kids sense that you are forcing the issue, what was meant to be fun can turn into disaster. Simply study their interests and offer to join them. If they love video games, sit down and try one out with them. They may tease you for being the worst player to ever wield a joystick. But inside their hearts, they will appreciate your valiant effort

You can knock out two birds with one stone here. Unconsciously, you have been yearning for a taste of fresh air. Make sure everybody is enthusiastic. Then, hie your family on a picnic or a hike. Not only will you have an enjoyable bonding experience, but you will soak your respective souls in the balm of nature. Few things are healthier for the psyche.

Even as you mentally relax, you remain physically tense. This is an aftereffect of the stress of the previous months. Indulge your body. Invest in a massage. Perhaps a deep-tissue one. This is an expense well worth the cost. Anxieties begin to melt as soon as the massage person's expert fingers begin to rub away at your tautly wound body.

Virgo, your status as a hard worker will certainly come in handy in the second part of the month. It looks like there will be a great deal of upheaval in your place of employment. In order to maintain your financial stability, you will have to compromise. This may involve accepting new assignments, which eclipse the bonds of your job description. It may simply necessitate joining forces on a project with the person whose personality grates on you like nails on a chalkboard. Keep your head down and continue plowing ahead.

VIRGO July 2015

Spoiler alert: family drama sighted on the horizon. Hopefully, it will not involve your closest circle. More likely, this will take the form of problems with in-laws, estranged relatives or brushes with the law. Keep your distance. This is vital for your own sanity. It may hurt those who are wrapped up in the scandal to see your ambivalence. But they cannot appreciate the wisdom of your decision. They are too preoccupied with the minutiae of the argument. This is a good time for you to put in some overtime at work.

Looking for an escape? A new hobby is the perfect antidote to the drama. Toy cars, toy trains, model planes. Dolls, Dollhouses and erector sets. Remember how much you enjoyed these activities as a child? Imagine how much fun they will be now that you actually have your own income (hopefully...). Perhaps you have seen a group of adults flying remote-controlled airplanes at your local park. Investigate. This could be a fun social activity. Who knew that a new pastime could lead to new friends? Adding a new hobby does not necessarily mean spending countless hours alone in your basement. Get out and meet people who like doing what you do.

Watch your diet, especially after the 16th. You will be sorely tempted to indulge in greasy, fatty foods. You are no longer a twenty-something trying to cure a hangover (unless you are...in which case, try taking it easy on the binge drinking!). These greasy foods will set you back health-wise, no matter how often you exercise. A juicy hamburger once a week as a treat is acceptable. Make vegetables, fruits, grains and nuts your staple foods.

Take care not to miss any bill payments in July. Watch for a debt that has slipped through the cracks. Perhaps you had to take ol' Bessy to the mechanic to fix her power steering. Well, that did not come cheap. It could be as simple as forgetting to reimburse your friend for planting those shrubs in your yard. Pay everything on time as best you can. Otherwise, down the line, you could net yourself a poor reputation with your creditors.

VIRGO August 2015

The temporary distance you were keeping with certain family members early in the past month will prove to have been the right move in August. Rifts do heal. Excitement approaches. Management has noticed your commitment to your career, and they have something in the pipeline for you. Don't worry. The opportunity will not involve deserting your personal life further. And hopefully, it will not necessitate a physical move to a new home. Perhaps you will be elevated to the next rung on the corporate ladder. All hefty increase in pay without the complications. So don't anticipate a family vs. work showdown. Everything will be resolved. But you will not be able to rest on your laurels afterward. The higher you climb, the more work you must provide.

At this juncture, your significant other's mind may wander to past aspirations that they abandoned long ago. Re-discover and indulge some of these dreams. Perhaps your girlfriend or boyfriend always wanted to be an actor. As he or she sees your success in your chosen field, they will realize their dissatisfaction with their own. They yearn for a more fulfilling vocation. This may lead them to remember the hopes and ambitions of their younger days. They may talk of quitting their office job and going to acting school, or of moving to a city where they have a chance to become famous. Tread carefully around this issue. If you shoot their hopes down, they will never forgive you. Be supportive and encouraging, even if you know their ideas are full of hot air. Some people simply have to learn the hard way.

Do not be surprised if you experience bizarre weather patterns in the latter half of the month. The temperature may change from hot to cold within an hour. Then, in half an hour - back again. Storms may pelt down unexpectedly from what seems like out of nowhere. Take along an umbrella whenever you journey from your front door. Even if there is not a cloud in sight. You may feel silly toting excess gear in

the morning; but you will not have to face the ridicule of showing up soaked to the skin at a crucial meeting in the afternoon.

VIRGO September 2015

During the first week of the month, you find yourself stuck in a rut. You may feel as though you are just going through the motions of life. You simply do what you need to do each day, without actually enjoying it. This can be demoralizing. You must break up the monotony. Make changes. Add something to your day. Take a walk during your lunch break at work. Start to bathe or shower in the morning instead of the evening. Wake up early and go for a run as the sun is rising. This will break your cycle of boredom and lift you from your blues.

Around this time, you will also have an opportunity to improve your skills in the workplace. Maybe a local venue is hosting a seminar on becoming a better leader. Or perhaps you will get the chance to shadow a successful person in your field so you can see firsthand what it takes to achieve success. Take advantage of these openings. Even if you do not consider yourself a natural leader. It may surprise you to learn what you are capable of. Plus, any way you can distinguish yourself from the pack of fellow employees will aid you in the long run. These experiences will help you throughout life, not simply in your career.

September might see your finances stretched. Watch for unanticipated expenses, such as an expensive visit to the dentist. Who knew it could be so difficult to maintain a working set of chompers? Buckle down, and try not to take any days off from your job. Especially if you get paid by the hour. You will need every bit of money, since you may not have enough savings to rely on. If there are additional shifts available, pick up some overtime now. This shortage will not last forever, so make hay while the sun shines. Think sprint, not marathon.

VIRGO October 2015

The financial pinch will cool off by the beginning of October. Your hard work was worth it. Now you can relax. Take that vacation day. If you feel under the weather, do not force yourself to go to work. At this juncture, the strain might exacerbate your illness. Do not push your body beyond its limits. This is a good time to unwind, especially on the weekends.

Finally, you can settle into a comfortable routine. You have faced adversity all year. Now, you can proudly proclaim that you have emerged unscathed. The insecurities in your family life and career are assuaged, at least for the time being. Since you have added some twists to your old, boring routine, you will enjoy life much more. Keep it fresh. Do not automatically refuse new things (unless of course those new things involve experimenting with dangerous drugs or engaging in a breakneck extreme sport). If you keep an open mind, you will derive satisfaction from activities that other people take for granted.

Indulge your appetite. Coupled with the stress from your career, your Spartan diet has been making you anxious. After the first week of the month, find someone of a similar mindset and treat yourselves to a delicious dinner out on the town. This can be a great way to reconnect with old friends or elderly relatives. Food bridges the generational divide. If you still have grandparents, take them out to eat. For them, socializing with you is infinitely more important than the actual meal. They will long appreciate the company and the thought you put into your actions.

Closely inspect any mechanical devices you rely on near the end of the month. If you have a car, check the oil level and the tire pressure. A breakdown would be most untimely. If you own a lawn mower, check the blades to make sure they aren't bent out of shape. Take pains to see that your washing machine's drains are not clogged with mineral deposits. It never hurts to be proactive.

VIRGO November 2015

November will test you in a different way than did the earlier months of the Sheep year. You will face emotional hurdles. There may be an untimely death in the family. Or perhaps your company will lay off some of your favorite coworkers. Regardless, the pressure will build on your psyche. Do not lash out at the innocents in your path. Being angry at the universe does not give you an excuse to be a jerk to your loved ones.

Your life will return to its normal orbit halfway through the month. You may fall into a minor funk, however. Do not go sprinting to the nearest psychiatrist. Take a breath and analyze the situation. Try some natural remedies. To begin, examine your diet and exercise routine (or lack thereof). If have been eating poorly, gobbling bounties of fatty foods, that is part of the problem. In addition, amidst the stress of recent weeks, you have probably neglected your regular exercise regimen. Get back into the groove. These two things will do wonders for your mental health. And they are within your control, so they will give you a feeling of ownership of your destiny.

The third week of the month is a great time to discover a new TV program. If possible, find something you haven't watched that is already available in its entirety. Look online. You can download, stream or find shows on a service such as Netflix. That way, you can "binge-watch" several episodes in a row. Or, if that is too time-consuming, you will at least have the power to play the show whenever you have a free moment.

Also, be mindful of the photos you display for the whole Internet to see. Perhaps you are not the problem. You may have a younger relative—cousin, nephew, daughter—who is not so careful. Gently notify them that they should screen what they post more carefully. After all, once you have uploaded something to the web, anyone can use it. God forbid a picture of a family member be used for nefarious purposes.

VIRGO December 2015

If you are searching for premonitions and warnings of doom, best look elsewhere. There is naught but happiness and prosperity in store for this jolly month. There is smooth sailing on the career front, in your finances and in your personal life. And this is how it should be. It is more satisfying to experience these luxuries now rather than at the start of the year. It will make you feel as if eleven long months of hard work have been rewarded. You know that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger...and so you are better able to appreciate the joys in your life.

Romance should blossom for you now. Keep an eye on that special someone. Your efforts at subtle seduction have not been in vain. Gather up your courage and ask them on a date. You will be shocked at the ease with which they agree. But take it slow. As tempting as it may be, you do not want to rush things. That might ruin your relationship in the long run. There will be plenty of time for physicality. First, concentrate on building an emotional and intellectual foundation.

The latter parts of December constitute a good time to find some new, interesting books to read. Especially if you have vacation time for the holidays. A good read is a great way to spend some free time. You will simultaneously entertain yourself and expand your mind. Or, if you go the *50 Shades of Grey* route, perhaps only titillate yourself. Regardless, the reading itself will be enriching.

In this time of celebration, your family will be closer than it has been in years. You may have relatives who feuded in the past. Who doesn't, after all? Take a risk and invite them to the same function. They will co-exist remarkably better than anyone could have hoped. If you are lucky, your party may be the impetus for their reconciliation. But—be sure to alert both parties ahead of time that the other will be present. If they feel ambushed, your plans may go up in smoke. Plus, you may have a new family feud on your hands—them against you!

VIRGO January 2016

January wraps up the Sheep year with a flourish. Expect the unexpected. A family member may soon present you with an expensive gift. It may not be exactly to your taste, but treasure it anyway. It is, after all, the thought that counts - especially with blood relations. If you do not want to wear the old-fashioned gold watch or outrageous-looking earrings from the forties, bear up and wear them at family gatherings. Your gesture will let the other person witness your appreciation for their gift in something stronger than words.

In the midst of basking in your year's triumphs, beware of gossip and rumors creeping up in your place of work. Be extremely conscious of the difference between work friends and real friends. You may spend forty hours a week with someone, but that does not mean you really "know" them. After all, they are paid to hang out with you. It's part of their job to be "friendly". By all means, remain courteous and convivial, but do not take it personally if your "friend" tries to sabotage you to advance their own career.

As the Chinese year comes to a close, reflect on what has transpired. Take note of your struggles and what you did to overcome them. What worked? What did not? Find a place to write this all down. Don't let your list of achievement and mis-steps get chucked out with the weekly trash. That way, next year, or further down the line, you will have a reference guide to return to. You can relive how you overcame a certain obstacle the first time around. Hence avoid making the same mistake twice.

Take a look around you. Which family members stuck by you in times of crisis this year? Which friends made it through the fire unscathed? Related, but more painful: which loved ones failed to stand by you? The ones that remained on your team should stay. The others you can consign to a kind of emotional purgatory. At least, now you know who your friends truly are. Give them a hug. A group hug, if possible. We are social animals. And your personal social animals in particular have been and will continue to be a vital part of your journey.

LIBRA

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR LIBRA 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”. Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury’s retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015
May 18 thru June 11, 2015
Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015
Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR LIBRA *Level-headed Libra,*

In 2015, Librans will mosey along fresh highways. Chances to take trips and participate in new experiences are rife. These years are mellower than most - not exactly laid back - but receptive to your balanced views. Sheep take to Librans. They shrink from brusque people. But they readily relate to your gentle, thoughtful, diplomatic approach. As much as possible in 2015 remain composed. Tiptoe into staff meetings and sidle into parties - there might be a Sheep among the participants whom you'd like to get to know or even seduce.

The work picture looks brighter for Librans in 2015, as does the money situation. You will not have to toil so vigorously as last year. Because the quality of your work improves over this coming year, you will be granted extra time off for those jaunts and voyages mentioned above. Take full advantage while you can. Next year will not evolve as smoothly as this one promises to. In 2015, expect to be awarded prizes and honors from groups you belong or contribute to. Loyal services justly rewarded.

Love? You should have smooth romantic sailing for at least the first few months of 2015. Need I remind you to lend more attention to your current main squeeze or spouse? You tend to get caught up in professional and community projects. Is it wise to prioritize those exterior activities when the home fires are smoldering because you are not there yet? No time for new love. Dance with the girl or guy who brought you. And dance fast or you may lose the best thing about your life. Your health doesn't present any life-threatening episodes this year. Be grateful for a sound mind and body. And while you're at it, be more generous with your hard-earned money. sw LIBRA January 2015

There's an excellent chance you'll get that real job offer in early January. This will come as a result of those connections you fostered during the past year. Eager though you may feel to leave your present employment, take the time to size up this new position. As far as possible, ascertain that the new workplace is not as chockablock with political intrigue as the old one. Try diplomatically to negotiate the

best possible salary and benefit package. Make sure you get ample vacation time so you can spend more time with your family. Weigh the two jobs against each other. Then talk them over with someone older and more experienced whose judgment you trust.

The new position will have you in the public eye more often. You will probably earn more money too. But some of that will have to go to a wardrobe upgrade. A shopping expedition is in order. Take your most style-savvy friend along to help you select a few classic-yet-chic additions to your closet.

Word of your new career assignment may attract the attention of some less than scrupulous acquaintances. Be wary of anyone who comes to you with propositions for investment now. Don't co-sign any loans. Overall, keep a low profile in regard to your increased wealth.

You will have more authority at your new workplace too. Make clear to those who report to you that you are a down-to-earth, willing to get your own coffee guy. But do avoid appearing indecisive or vague. Let people at your new workplace see that you are a relaxed person, yet you can also be firm and assertive. They will soon understand that you are neither a bully nor a pushover. Your talent for maintaining balance in chaos will be much appreciated and will help you to establish your position.

Someone in your family, perhaps a sibling, may reveal an addiction of some sort as the Year of the Horse draws toward a close. Show that you support this person's efforts to overcome this health challenge. Express respect for his or her decision to go into rehab or start attending AA. Encourage others in the family to be supportive as well.

LIBRA February 2015

Mercury is retrograde during the first eleven days of this month. So you should prepare to face more delays and confusion than usual with regard to communication and transportation. It's nothing worth becoming anxious about. But Mercury retrograde often creates confusion and obviates the use of our best reason when signing documents or making long-term commitments.

9th to 11th February could give you a bit of a jolt. You may overhear some shocking news about somebody else's plans which includes you. Don't panic or overreact. Control your emotions. Avoid spreading the gossip. An old lover or ex-spouse returns around Valentine's Day, seeking a way back into your life. He or she may try to lure you into a flirtation or more. You'd be wise to sidestep these flattering overtures. Although your ex may utter silver-tongued words dripping with honey, I sense they are aiming to make trouble. If you don't respond to her or his advances, this individual may try to find another way to gain your attention. Make yourself scarce. Be elusive. If they insist, you may have to show your teeth and make clear that you do not (under any circumstances) want them back in your life.

Your health and vitality are shining especially brightly during the 3rd week of this month. Nights are restful and mornings cheerful. Energy levels remain high throughout the day. The days are too short for you. You are ready to take on the entire world and emerge a winner. This is a good time to undertake a new physical activity - go for it around the 21st and thereafter. Why not join aerobics classes at a nearby gym? Or try training for a triathlon? Staying in shape can be as simple as deciding to walk half an hour a day or take the stairs more often. Others around you notice the effects of your renewed energy. You are likely to garner a lot of admiration from the opposite sex.

LIBRA March 2015

First week of March is the ideal time to wrap up loose ends. This is a plum time to get your personal financials in order. Review your insurance policies, bringing them up-to-date if necessary. Transfer existing credit card debt to benefit from lower rates of interest. Also banish chaos and clutter from your house. Re-organize your closets, chests of drawers and bookcases. Throw out what you do not use. Or

give old clothes, etc. to a charity thrift shop. Make sure you know where belongings are stored so you can access what you need when you need it. Creating order out of chaos may sound like a boring project. But creating order in your living environment helps generate positive planetary energies.

During the 2nd week of this month, a favor you did for someone a year or more ago pays off. This individual had approached you in time of extreme distress. You had played the “Good Samaritan” and gone out of your way to help him or her. This person hasn’t been in touch for quite a while. You had probably assumed he or she would never offer any form of recompense. You may even have begun to think this person deliberately took advantage of you. Well, destiny works in mysterious ways. To your surprise, this person suddenly appears and gives you a leg up - in a most unexpected way. Your faith in humanity is (at least temporarily) re-established.

Minor money glitches may create a hassle for you between the 20th and the 31st. Perhaps a payment you make on your credit card or to a utility company does not get recorded. Or your bank may make an accounting error which results in an overdraft. You could receive a notice claiming you owe unpaid taxes. Make sure your financial records are up to date and in order. Short term, you may lose access to some funds. Have emergency cash on hand. This mess could take two weeks or more to sort out. They owe you an apology.

LIBRA April 2015

Early April finds you battling mood swings. You partner and friends or colleagues may remark on how moody you seem. Part of the problem stems from lack of sleep. Sleep deprivation affects one’s state of mind. Some of it may also be due to work-related stress. Even if you get eight hours of snooze time regularly, the effects of unrelieved stress can leave you exhausted. Don’t bring home work-related issues. Try going to bed earlier at night. Prepare for bed by slowing down half an hour before you plan to slumber. Take a warm bath. Drink some herb tea. Don fresh jammies or a cozy nightie. Take a good book to bed and read yourself to sleep. TV is not sleep-inducing. Give up those wee hours’ marathon sessions of downloading music or re-watching your favorite old movies. If sleepy tea doesn’t tempt you, drink a glass of warm milk. Put some fresh sheets and pillowcases on the bed. Off the computer and extinguish your smart phone. Then burrow on down under the covers and snooze.

The 10th to the 20th is an extremely busy but also productive period at work. You may be forgetful and face a mini crisis around the 13th or 14th of this month. Your partner will prove his or her worth, rising above and beyond the call of duty to come to your rescue. Perhaps you leave an important document at home on the day of a crucial meeting. Your partner will drive home to fetch it and bring you what you need. Or you lose your car keys, call your partner from a parking lot miles from home and they show up with the second set of keys.

You may be involved in a case of a mistaken identity around the 24th. Perhaps you receive a threatening phone call from someone who believes you to be someone else. Or you unknowingly play a role in someone else’s drama. Perhaps two of your co-workers are having an affair. You may face false accusations of being a home wrecker by one of these people’s spouses. There could also be a lot of malicious gossip floating around at the moment. It could damage your credibility. You must speak up and let others know that what is being said about you is patently untrue.

LIBRA May 2015

The health of one of your parents or perhaps another older relative is likely to be a cause of concern around the 6th. Could be encroaching Alzheimer’s or some other disease of aging. Perhaps the older people can move in with another family member. Or maybe the family can hire trained aides to come in and help out. You are likely to have to face facts and search for an assisted living facility. All the family

members affected by this decision will have to hold a meeting to deliberate. People tend to be highly emotional about this kind of transition. We all hate to see our parent become dependent on us. Tempers could flare. Use your Libran skills of diplomacy to try to bring everyone to a consensus. Careful research of the different options will be necessary. It could take a few days to reach a sensible conclusion.

With the home front also a bit demanding for reasons associated with the above dilemma, you face the danger of a burnout around the middle of this month. Try not to overextend yourself. Take necessary precautions. Slow the pace or you might just undo all that you have set out to achieve. You may need to alter your lifestyle a bit to sustain yourself. Be more regular and organized with your eating habits. Work more regular hours. Unless it's a question of life or death, late hours at your office are a no-no. Go out for a bit of feel-good shopping. Invite some close friends to dinner. Unwind and relax.

From May 19th through the June 11th, the planet Mercury will be retrograde again. Heed the same old rules: No signing of binding documents, no purchases of major appliances, hard or software. Expect delays and snafus at every juncture. Keep your head when obstacles loom. Contracts, written communications and short distance travel may prove troublesome. Decision-making is not your strongest suit. But this time, if you aren't prepared to make an on-the-spot snap decision, a last minute change concerning travel from the 26th to 29th can cost you.

LIBRA June 2015

Early June is a necessary plateau period. A monetary challenge is afoot. You may be struggling with your personal or business finances. Family expenses mount up. When it comes to contracts and financial deals, do all the research thoroughly before you sign on the dotted line. As Mercury is retrograde till the 11th, you are likely to change your mind and back out of a previously made plan to improve your lot. Take this retrograde period to think things through. Seek out more information so as to make sound choices. The road is likely to fork in front of you. You are going to have to choose a direction. Sort out in your mind what is most important to you. Prioritize. Don't give up on existing projects, which are crawling snail-like along. Giving up is losing ground. Stay away from pessimists. Circumstances will improve in a couple of weeks.

The bold and beautiful side of you will take over by the mid June. Invitations to clubs, organizations, parties and social events will start pouring in. Say yes to those, which can be beneficial. At some of these events, people from foreign cultures will fascinate you. This curiosity largely has to do with their food, art, music and culture. Try to visit an international food or a film festival in your area. You are likely to bump into someone friendly and interesting there too.

Most Librans are going to be bitten by the travel bug after the 20th. This is the perfect time to go somewhere you've never been before. Take a road trip or hop on a flight as a standby. Enjoy the journey as much as the destination. Be sure to grab a souvenir and a few pictures to bring home. Long distance foreign travel for business or work purposes is also favored now. Any contacts with companies and customers in faraway places will give you a professional boost.

LIBRA July 2015

Your mood is expansive and optimistic early in July. You have a better grasp of the big picture. Use this energy to promote your projects and gain support at the work place. Don't be surprised if you are asked to take part in discussions, which, on the one hand, seem far-fetched and odd. But when you think about it, they really could bring you long-term rewards. Exciting opportunities are coming up in publishing, media, medicine and the law around the 2nd week. Get ready to explore these areas if relevant to you and take advantage while the iron is hot. Radical and inventive ideas hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your status in the coming weeks. You develop a sense of adventure and wish to learn something

new and thrilling. If it's a hobby you are going after, it may develop into a serious occupation later. Creativity will guide you. Follow your gut.

Physical relationships will be intense this month. You exude sexuality and people will notice it easily now. A new romantic interest enters your life from the 10th to 15th of July. This person is likely to be either Aries or Aquarius. Conversation on general topics might go on till dawn which can of course reveal underlying chemistry. After a couple of meetings, there will be a whopper of a physical attraction between you and this person. You may find yourselves skipping dinner reservations in favor of multiple sexual romps. While sex and romance are on your mind, you will feel equally as intense about wealth, taxes, debts, legacies and shared property because you will want to sort these things out this month. You may be looking at wills. There may be a windfall and you could gain a lot from an inheritance that you never expected between the 23rd and the 27th.

You are likely to meet influential people at a business meeting around this month end. These encounters will have a favorable impact on the projects you are handling. You succeed at forging some new connections and make all the right career moves now. If you are studying or working in any kind of research, your native curiosity will come in handier than usual. You could learn many new things and uncover some hidden truths which can be of enormous benefit to you at a later date. Good fortune and positive results become reality by the end of July.

LIBRA August 2015

Success with finances or the promise of future success will draw others to you. Early this month between the 4th and the 10th, money-related matters such as funds, deposits, taxes etc. could reap quite a bountiful harvest. A surprise bonus may be in the offing. Or dividends you didn't have a clue would pan out, suddenly do. Money is likely to flow into your coffers. A healthy bank balance makes us all feel secure. A lot of buying and selling of assets is also indicated. You may decide to go in for a new luxury vehicle this month. However watch your impulsivity. Research the different models and read the reviews and critics. Otherwise, you are could very well suffer from buyer's remorse. At work, your intention is to build a more positive image for yourself. Go for it. Now is the time.

Around the 16th, there is every chance of shifting your love life to a new and more intimate level. As you are mad about them, isn't it time you made a bold and daring move towards the one you love? If you continue to hold back and expect the other person to make the first move, you will continue to pedal your bike in deep water - going nowhere fast. Speaking frankly and honestly about your feelings could completely transform a one-sided relationship. Of course you could lose out. Scare the loved one away. It's risky to show one's vulnerability. But at least, afterward, you will know where you stand.

Disputes and tensions within the family or among your office team may test your patience between the 22nd and the 27th. You might find yourself catapulted into the uncomfortable muddle of office politics. This is likely to be instigated by an incompetent colleague who is, him or herself, unhappy with their work. Your boss will feel the pinch too and may not be his or her usual friendly self. Use your negotiating skills to ease the tension. Handle everyone with kid gloves. Don't let choppy waters in career matters put a damper on your enthusiasm. You will gain traction by end of the month. Everything will return to normal. Your professional goals will be reaffirmed and back on track. Boss less cranky. Family supportive and sensitive to your needs.

LIBRA September 2015

Early September brings you opportunities to serve others. Grab these chances. Your altruistic efforts will turn out to be an excellent investment, gaining you goodwill and strengthening your support system. The needy ones could be close kin or a crony. You may be approached by a friend who needs a shoulder to cry

on. Your child may need your help with a complex school project. Or you may decide to participate more actively in a local charity. Give and share whatever you can – time, money other resources. The payoff will come later in the year.

Mercury is retrograde from the 17th of this month. There is a risk of losing precious objects during this time. Do not leave any belongings lying on your car seat where they may attract thieves. Change the PIN codes on your debit and credit cards. Keep cash reserve on hand in case any payments to you are delayed. This is also a time to hunt down things you think you have lost. You could very well find surprise items you don't remember buying or never bought at all. Even though many forgotten items such as keepsakes and photographs will reappear, don't expect to discover the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Instead, you'll be lulled and comforted into nostalgic musings. Childhood memories may even haunt you for a few days.

Some surprising advice from a friend may inspire you to think towards a lucrative new business venture from the 23rd to the 29th. Don't rush in too quickly. Do your homework. Discuss the new scheme with your partner and family. Take your time to examine all the details before you leap. If as you prepare carefully and ask the right questions, this new idea can yield strong profits. But hold off on investments or signing paperwork till October 9th when the Mercury retrograde phase ends. Remember to invest only funds that you can afford to lose without regret. And please please... don't be in a hurry to quit your day job until this business idea becomes fully profitable.

LIBRA October 2015

The Mercury retrograde continues till the 9th of this month. Be cautious with legal documents. If you intend to invest in property this month, read the fine print carefully before signing papers. Ensure that all communications with the seller through your agent are clear and accurate. Ambiguity in any tiny matter will lead to embarrassment and issues later. You may get a feeling that some invisible forces are changing the trajectory of your life now. Some new avenues will open up and beckon you towards unknown territory. Yes, change is always accompanied by some unrest. But be brave and face the music. Burying your head in the sand won't help to advance your cause. Domestic harmony makes up for any turmoil you may face and reduce your stress. Discuss your ideas and opportunities with your partner who is always on your side.

A naughty child may be cause of concern around the 12th to the 18th. You may get a complaint from the school about his or her indulgence in pranks or bullying other kids. He or she may also be lagging behind in the classroom. You will need to figure out whether the child needs some private tutoring. And of course, it's your job to discipline the child with love and care. Shouting your head off won't help. It will only make matters worse. Be fully aware of the kind of company your child keeps. Kids are easily swayed by peer pressure. If he or she is being influenced by a disreputable group, distract them. Spend more quality time with your kid to ensure they are too busy with you to hang out with scoundrels.

You could experience financial setbacks during the last 10 days of this month. Reasons may be many; but some kind of unexpected expenses will certainly max you out. Any form of betting or gambling will be disastrous. In particular, be vigilant from the 23rd to the 26th of this month. You may be an easy target for a swindler. This character could be someone you have known vaguely for some time through an old acquaintance. You may be approached with an “only for today, gone tomorrow, exciting proposal”. Distance yourself as hastily and discreetly as possible. Do not give in to desperate requests for money from strangers who have lost baggage and money. Now may be a good time to consider a relaxing hobby. Look into gardening as a way to relieve stress, get some exercise and commune with mud and nature.

LIBRA November 2015

This may not be the ideal time to change jobs. But if you are looking for opportunities for further advancement at your existing workplace, then early November is the right time to make a bold move. Your efforts at work may have gone unnoticed earlier. You might just have to change your tactics and “sell yourself” better. You will feel like showcasing your ideas openly and think about augmenting your skills. Go for it. However stars foretell that your confidence is in danger of spilling over into overdrive - even borderline arrogance zone. The bitterness and frustration within may lead to an unnecessary argument with someone in a position of authority between the 7th and the 10th. Stalking out of a meeting in a huff will give you a sense of power and self righteousness. But it could very well spoil a previously harmonious relationship with a senior colleague who only wishes you well. Burning bridges won't work right now. Diplomacy is in order.

The period from the 13th to 17th may be a stressful time for your partner. He or she could experience diverse and unusual symptoms. The immune system may be vulnerable. The physician may not be able to correctly diagnose the problem. Do not make the mistake of going through one of the many scare-mongering medical websites online. Choose reliable sources. Think about trying alternative medicines such as homeopathy or acupuncture and Yoga.

A visit from a close friend or a sibling is likely from the 24th to the 29th. This person has and will always be a big source of comfort and support for you. If you need sound advice on any matter, you can trust him or her. The home front will be pleasant as family members surround you with gifts and love. You are happy socializing and exchanging views with others. You could find yourself starting to feel a little more attractive and magnetic as well. Expect to hold an illuminating and philosophical conversation with someone you love.

LIBRA December 2015

The theme underlying early December is “togetherness and balance” – both within the family as well as at your workplace. Taking small steps every day and teaming with others will prove to be extremely helpful. You'll be surprised by what you can accomplish with a cooperative and gentler approach. The planets are in a transformative mode that can help you clarify your values and reinforce your spirituality. This is an energizing and motivating time. You may want to integrate your ideals into your life and career. You could also be rethinking some formerly rigid standards and redefining what is truly important about life. It is a good time to rethink past decisions. Around the 5th to the 7th, you could make a connection with a person who inspires you with their courageous and non-conventional lifestyle. Their contact makes you feel youthful. You might even engage in some exciting flirting.

Mid December brings to closure a chapter in your life that was filled with anxiety. A lengthy legal case may end in your favor. This could be related to a former business partner who deceived you. Or it may concern somebody who had forged signatures and caused a financial loss to you years back. With this victory, you are likely to be relieved of a debt or responsibility. Social status will be enhanced. Any existing misunderstandings with friends or relatives will magically disappear now.

An influx of funds from various sources into your bank account ensures that you splurge during Christmas. Do save some of the windfall for a rainy day. But the recent spate of good fortune does call for a mini celebration. Why not take your immediate family away somewhere for Christmas? Let family members vote on a destination. The place might not be what you would have chosen. But the democratic decision from the entire family will ensure that the trip unfolds smoothly. If something is amiss and things don't go well with the trip, nobody can hold you responsible for unilaterally choosing the destination.

LIBRA January 2016

First few days of January may find you shrouded in a “don't talk to me” aura. Morbid thoughts occupy

your mind. News of a loved one struggling with a chronic disease. Or an elderly relative may pass away around this time. Mercury is retrograde most of this month starting from the 5th. Be meticulous about details of travel plans and hotel bookings. Check your email communications thoroughly. Sort through your Spam folder and eliminate anything and anybody you do not directly know. Never click on links unless you are expecting on from a friend. Chances of misunderstandings and glitches with electronic devices are high now.

Guard against a sudden temper flare up with your partner around the 13th. The argument may be related to an innocent goof up. (Blame it on Mercury.) If your lover is at the boiling point, do not add further fuel by making statements like “I knew this would happen” “I told you so” “He/she (your ex) would have handled the situation far better.” Validate their anger. Give some credence to their reasoning. Do not underplay anger outbursts. True to your sign of course, you manage to spring back to balance fast after the 15th. Positivist and focus return now. Relationships get back to normal - whatever that is!

You may suffer from mouth related problems this month. It may also be an irritating clicking sound in your jaw (TM). You may find that an on and off painful tooth or gum needs surgical intervention now. Taking care of dental matters and curing mouth irritations is crucial to your well-being. An infection in your mouth can spread to your whole body. Postpone any surgeries till after 25th when Mercury goes direct.

SCORPIO

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR SCORPIO 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: "**retrograde**".

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR SCORPIO

Saucy Scorpio,

This entire Sheep Year is about not letting chances pass you by. In the case of Scorpio, 2015 is all about espousing the inevitable and not fighting city hall. By this, I mean you should expect to meet with distracting challenges which beckon you away from yourself. Your job? Don't get sidetracked. There is a lot of hard work to accomplish this year and you have been elected to do a bit more than your share. Sheep and Scorpio can blend beautifully. But it is up to the Scorpio to take the lead and bend with the winds of change. The Sheep can't be bothered. He/she is too busy creating and inventing and lying down dreaming in your fertile field.

Your career will occupy and preoccupy the better part of 2015. Not that you will be whipped into action at work or berated for not showing up. No bosses will be on your case. Instead, you will be at your own back, flogging yourself to increase your output and assert yourself in order to realize your goals. If, at first, you don't succeed at something you have long been striving for - try something else. No one is obliged to become a brain surgeon. You might change course midstream and decide to become a volunteer fireperson. You be the judge.

The Love situation for Scorpions in 2015 is not dramatic. If you have a live-in or full time main squeeze, you will probably continue to dance with the girl/guy who brought you. But if you are on the prowl for some fresh flesh, be extra careful this year. You are strong. Weak people are fatally attracted to you. Sheep, in particular, need your support. Befriend these needy folks. But don't get too emotionally involved. You don't mind lending a hand. But you cannot tolerate clinging vines. If someone you have long been friends with suddenly betrays you. Drop them. If a person is capable of selling you down the river once... they will do it again. sw SCORPIO January 2015

Spending time around young people helps you maintain your emotional equilibrium though a tense early January. Problems seem to come at you fast and thick from all directions. Challenges arise on both the

home and work fronts. If you are a parent, make time even at the end of the most difficult days to play, read to or talk with your children.

If you are not a parent, volunteer to take your grandchildren, nieces and nephews, the offspring of a friend or some underprivileged kids on an outing. Be both materially and emotionally generous with children now. Buy them treats, but also offer them to your best non-judgmental, non-condescending, undivided attention. Turn off your phone when you are with them. Listen and really hear what they say. The kids will benefit from this kind of respectful kindness from an adult. And you will gain stability from being more playful and letting go of the stressful mental attitudes most Scorpios impose on themselves.

Around the 20th, there will likely be enough of a break between minor crises for you to sneak away for a brief trip. Do not announce this journey in advance to anyone at work. Leave your secret trip itinerary with key people who must be able to reach you in case of emergency. Arrange for your e-mail box to send out an “away from office” message with your date of return to everyone who e-mails you.

Your trip is likely to be unpredictable in many ways but will yield many happy memories. Travel with your partner, or if you are single, go with the kind of friend flexible enough to help you find fun even if the weather is bad or your flight is cancelled. If you take your children on this trip, explain that changes in plan constitute an opportunity for adventure. If the weather is inclement or a train is late, make a joke of it. No use spoiling the fun with any cranky reactions to reality.

SCORPIO February 2015

Mercury is retrograde during the first eleven days of this month. Best laid plans as well as appliances, electronics and love affairs often go awry during Mercury retrograde. In case you have plans to supplement or boost income through an additional weekend job, you may face hurdles. Don't give up though. Maintain your patience. Any legal documentation or decisions are best postponed till the 11th. This is a good space in which to negotiate. Do however refrain from signing binding agreements. Those in business are trying to bag a lucrative contract around the 12th to the 15th. But don't be impulsive and over competitive while submitting your bid. You may run into losses that way.

The feeling that you are being manipulated or unappreciated by your partner may grow after the 10th. Romance appears to have a few treacherous twists. Your current relationship may be going through a rough phase. Has your partner been two-timing you? Try to find out. Planets are likely to bring you a revelation after Valentine's Day. You may be forced to come to terms with a painful reality. Perhaps you should have sent those chocolates to a colleague that you are so fond of at your workplace. It's time to make a meaningful decision about your current relationship. Move on?

While Scorpio love life isn't very exciting right now; career will definitely provide succor. A senior colleague pushes you to take the lead in a prestigious project around the 23rd. You will be able to envision your future career path now. What you're doing, what you could be doing, and what you should be doing will all become clearer during the next two weeks. Work to gather and exchange information with colleagues from the 25th to the 28th. It will help you to remain aware and alert to important professional matters. A couple of vexing business issues may have been hounding you for the past few weeks. Consider putting your ideas on paper. Seeing a list of what is afoot is likely to help you to come up with a perfect solution.

SCORPIO March 2015

March 3rd to the 14th is perfect for business and investing. You may have sudden monetary gains through existing investments. This is going to fuel your risk-taking tendencies. A friend may have windfall gains in the stock market. This same friend is likely to divert your attention even more towards the stock markets. Agreed, you do have a decided advantage in trading as well as in other financial dealings this month. Just

be wary of using automated trading software promising to make you millions every month. There is no “one size fits all” in trading. Markets are dynamic and fundamentals can change every day. Wherever you decide to invest, keep your wits about you. No risky schemes. Subscribe to some reliable fundamental and technical analysis reports. Try and invest only for the long term. Greed and fear are responsible for many a ruined fortune. Keep your losses at a minimum.

During March 10th to 13th, your partner or a close friend will reveal something intimate and shocking. You may have a weird topsy-turvy feeling about it in your mind. But once the shock wears off, you will be able to keep this intriguing information confidential. Guard against the temptation to share this information with anyone else. You may land in some murky soup if you blab. Scorpio loves subterfuge. What’s one more secret to keep safe in a secretive Scorpio heart?

23rd and 24th March are days which should provide you a rich source of fresh concepts that help you to make a sale or a powerful presentation to a big fish. You colleagues are likely to go green with envy. Turn a blind eye. A challenge resulting from a change of task or work assignment could lead to re-evaluating your future in your present job. Try not to lose control. A minor partnership alliance of some kind comes up at the workplace after the 26th. Someone with skills you do not possess will prove invaluable to you. Prepare to do your part to make this alliance fruitful. You will be surprised at the dividends it pays in the future.

SCORPIO April 2015

Early April you will experience a spate of low energy. You may feel sluggish and tired in the mornings. The solution is to stretch your body more. Get some exercise. Spending extra time in bed never helps. Find a gym nearby and enroll yourself pronto. No use joining that expensive, dazzling new gym across town - just because they are giving discounts. If you have to drive far to get there each day, you will soon lose interest. Cycling and regular long walks will also help. If you have long been intrigued by yoga, now is a good time to start. With so many different varieties ranging from hot yoga to nude yoga, you will definitely find something that matches your interest.

A friend or elderly relative may very hesitatingly approach you for advice and support around the 9th to 12th. Do lend a helping hand, financially or emotionally. The good feeling and soul satisfaction this gesture will generate within you will surprise you. Around the same time, you may be motivated to approach and reconcile with someone with whom you previously had tensions. This could be an office colleague or a good friend turned foe. Misunderstandings can be lessened through communication and compassion. The other person is likely to be pleasantly surprised at your reaching out. In fact you feel pretty outspoken, affectionate and responsive towards all loved ones now.

Be extra careful about locking doors and securing windows during the 3rd and 4th weeks of this month. There is danger of a break-in around the 22nd to the 27th. If your purse allows it, you could find it worthwhile to invest in a home security system. Make your dwelling burglar-proof. Does your difficult ex still have keys to your house? Change the locks. Even if they are not the prying type, you still need your privacy and a guarantee of security. Replace any non-functioning or flimsy locks on doors and windows. Pay especially close attention to any secret means of entry to your basement, attic or back door.

SCORPIO May 2015

You may feel inspired to effect some creative changes in your living space early in May. It’s a good idea to find ways to make your home feel more spacious. Eliminate clutter. Lighten up. Heavy armchairs make your room look smaller. Angle your chairs, tables and couches in a cozy - yet space-saving manner. Streamline your home. A dining table, which folds into, a coffee table might work well. Try slathering light-colored paints on the walls to brighten the place up. Paintings, remember, are to be hung at eye level

- no higher.

Mercury backpedals again on the 19th of this month. Financial irregularities at home and office are likely to trouble you. Read the fine print on any documents related to business or property matters with scrupulous precision. Delay signing anything you cannot change later on. These retrograde periods of the planet ruling communication and travel are the worst possible times for making long-term commitments. Use this Mercury retrograde to concoct plans and do research about future projects. Be as non-judgmental as you can with a business partner. There may be a need to revisit old issues in a partnership.

Someone in your own or extended family may be hurt in some mishap between the 25th to the 27th. Accidents do happen. Whatever kind of accident it is, it certainly won't be fatal. But the fact it happened on your watch will put you on alert. Make certain your vehicle and family health insurance is up to date. Month's end forces you to look at an issue in your love relationship that you have not wanted to acknowledge. A confrontation between you and your partner is likely to arise. You would rather run a million miles than have to deal with the complex romantic situation you face. Don't hang on to the past. Difficult for Scorpio not to seek revenge. Instead... let it go. Never look back. Looking deeply within yourself and rejecting denial will provide answers which can lead to the solution of your current entanglement.

SCORPIO June 2015

Mercury retrograde phase that started in May will last until June 11th. You are likely to feel its negative effects in relation to monetary dealings. Be especially careful to keep records of payments you make this month. There may be delays regarding financial support, loans, or taxes. Investments made now may not go the way you want them to.

It may be better to side-step arguments with loved ones that revolve around intimacy and sexuality. It may be difficult to rely on the inputs of your partner now. Chance of thefts. Do not lock up leave any belongings lying on your car seat where they may attract thieves. Change the PIN codes on your debit and credit cards often. Keep cash reserve on hand on case any payments to you are delayed. Try not to sign contracts or make major purchases until after the retrograde period ends June 11.

Mid June heralds an excellent phase to update and sharpen your professional skills and continue education. Many of you are likely to join weekend or evening courses in your area of interest now. If finance is an issue, look at free online learning tools from prestigious universities like Harvard, MIT, Yale, Purdue and the like. The courses can be taken at your own pace. There is a truckload of subjects to choose from including foreign languages, computer science, design, cooking, writing and many other things that I have not even thought of.

The last ten days of this month can be spent pampering your body. You may start thinking of ways to improve your appearance or image. Ladies may consider a few cosmetic beauty procedures for improving skin tone. New age diet plans to reduce weight may attract you. Don't bother purchasing the most expensive creams, lotions and/or surgical procedures. Try to follow a simple, well balanced diet plan. We are what we eat. A balanced diet comprising some protein, fresh fruits and vegetables provides the nutrients that keep the skin young and nourished. Nuts like almonds, walnut and pistachio have minerals and vitamins which are anti-ageing and also rejuvenate the skin.

SCORPIO July 2015

If you have been considering a change of residence, 3rd July and thereafter will be the right time to start looking for properties. Check out the classifieds in the new area. Do your own research to make sure you are not moving to a less than savory neighborhood. Celebrations are also in the offing. A close friend or relative gets married early this month. You are likely to have helped a lot with arrangements and planning.

You may also serve as best man or bridesmaid. Keep your eyes and ears open while at the wedding. Stop, look and listen to each and every person to whom you are introduced. An unexpected networking opportunity is bound to emerge that will pay dividends for some time to come. You will make some influential contacts.

You may have been planning to make a few changes in career for some time. There may be an offer to relocate overseas. Keep your plans to yourself for now, until you have the details fully worked out. If you share your ideas, there might be stiff opposition. Around the 12th, you may experience someone trying to impose their opinions on you. This someone could either be your partner or one of your parents. Initially, like all good Scorpios you will resist. But their insistence will encourage you to think more deeply and stick to what is important to you. Perhaps the key is to plan and execute, but to take a less argumentative approach at the same time. If still in doubt, seek out a second opinion from someone you trust and respect.

You need to keep an eye on your health from the 20th to 25th. Headaches or back spasms or strange shooting pains in your arms and legs may be cause of worry. The root cause for this condition is stress. Take measures to mitigate the tension in your life. Relieve yourself of irksome people who drain your energy whenever they are around. Excuse them from your life. Start protecting yourself by meditating on a regular basis. If sitting meditation bores you, develop a walking meditation or chanting practice. Sign up for a class in tai chi or yoga. Relaxing massages every weekend will help a lot to detoxify and relieve pains.

SCORPIO August 2015

Success with finances or the promise of future success will draw others to you in early August. You may be excited by a covert investment opportunity that a friend or acquaintance shares with you around the 3rd or 4th. Others around you may also be convinced and decide to put in some money. The investment may appear safe on the surface. But take a closer look (Go deeper) before you part with your cash. Don't go by what is promised. Liquidity might be an issue in the near future.

Mid-August is a supercharged, chaotic time. You may have overbooked yourself this month. You have far too many social meetings, promises and commitments. Work-related travel is also hectic. A couple of activities you officially volunteered for awhile ago now need attention. If you push yourself too hard, there is danger of a burnout. It is recommended not to overextend yourself. Try to work through each obligation with equanimity. Begin setting better boundaries for yourself. Start with renewed self-discipline, limiting your future obligations. State your limits to your entourage. Explain that you need to cut back on social engagements and curb your excessive altruism. Avoid new projects now.

Your love life may seem fairly dull during the last 10 days of this month. Your partner could be traveling for work. You wonder if your relationship has grown somewhat stale. Beware. You may seek to alleviate that situation by indulging in some unsavory hanky panky. You may decide end the old relationship and begin a quest for a new partner. If you do, be sure to let your partner know ahead of time. Sneaking around simply will not do. Why not try to rekindle the excitement of your existing relationship? Be more inventive in the bedroom. Reveal a few fantasies to each other. Some of you may talk with your partner and decide to try an open relationship. Whatever you decide to do, it will constitute a major upheaval in your love life. But you are ready for that.

SCORPIO September 2015

You are likely to go for a business trip to an exotic location early this month. Palm trees and surf. Fresh fishes and local gourmet specialties. As this is a professional obligation, you will likely be ensconced in the sort of luxurious five star hotels you have always preferred. Your sojourn and food are taken care of ahead of time. Why not take your partner along and have fun in the evenings and weekends? Combining

business with pleasure is never a bad idea. In any case, travel is very likely to become prominent in your life again for next couple of months. You will bring home some memorable moments spent with your love during this journey. Do remember to pick up some souvenirs for family and friends.

Delay and frustration are likely to characterize your financial situation this month after the 16th. The Mercury retrograde period starting on September 17th may result in miscommunication about payments. A check mailed to you could get lost. Or someone may offer you a job, then call back to say they suddenly have a hiring freeze for the next couple of weeks. Try not to become discouraged with these hiccups. Choose a learning project to keep your mind occupied. Plan your next steps. But avoid binding commitments. On a brighter note, your own energy level is exceptional now. You will have no trouble rising with the sun to capitalize on an early-bird special, allowing you to add to your grocery, hardware or appliance supply.

Teamwork is favored more than individual effort in mid-July, whether the task at hand involves family, neighbors or anyone else. Your professional accomplishments may receive some sort of public recognition now. A magazine or journal may feature an article about you. Or you could receive some sort of award and appreciation at workplace. Enjoy the compliments and praise that are being showered upon you now. Take pleasure from basking in the glow of the spotlight.

SCORPIO October 2015

You are financially flush in the beginning of October. However Mercury is retrograde till the 9th of this month. So avoid any major travel plans, purchases or investments till then. Significant expenditures during this time are likely to fail you in some way. A vehicle you purchase during this period may suddenly be offered at a good discount a few days later. The apartment building you buy as an income property could turn out to have hidden structural problems. If you take a major trip right now, the airline may decide to reduce fares just after you purchase the ticket. The expensive oil painting you acquire now could turn to be a worthless copy. Sew your pockets shut.

There is a positive change in your mental and physical energy levels on the work front. Communications in all forms will be smoother and more effective after the 12th. But do try and put your ideas across in writing. For instance, if you have to convince a friend or colleague about an idea, write them an email. Re-read and absorb what you said. Written information is far more effective than a phone call. Those in public speaking, legal profession, training or counseling will find. Lady Luck smiling on them. If approached by someone - even someone you know well - avoid lending them money between the 14th to the 18th. You are unlikely to get that money back.

Planets indicate an increased interest in theatre, movies, hobbies and other creative outlets of an artistic nature after the 19th. You and your partner may suddenly turn into ardent movie or theatre buffs for the next couple of weeks. Some of you may actively pursue the idea of joining an amateur theatre group. At the same time, your foray into the “creativity zone” may be related to someone of the younger age group. Perhaps one of your kids needs help with arts and craft activities. Or the neighbor’s kid may have a stage performance and come to sell you tickets for the show. Or they might want you to coach them for a sports activity you were once very good at, over the weekend. Guide, coach, participate, donate, cheer – help the youngsters in whatever way you can.

SCORPIO November 2015

You are brimming with ideas early in November. There is a definite hike in your self-esteem and self worth. This is going to turn out to be a great month for work and pleasure. Gainful travel, higher studies, warm relationships, a grand reaching out to people, great mental astuteness, community service and social interaction are all working in your favor. Wow, that’s quite a list! What is best is that you also possess a

surfeit of finances now. Try to grasp lucrative opportunities which come your way. And come your way they will. Accept only the best for yourself and family. This is a month of accomplishments.

Between the 13th and the 18th, you will find yourself putting your best foot forward everywhere. Step out in style. The time for reserve and restraint is on hold. Now is the time to display the bold and beautiful side of you which frequently propels you toward name and fame. You will effortlessly weave this all together and present an ideal image. Your Scorpio charisma and sex appeal will (as usual) attract the opposite sex. Don't be surprised now if beautiful women or handsome men turn around and give you compliments on your appearance. Glamour, glitz and go – The jet set “G's” of the *good life* will swarm you.

There may be a tense situation coming your way around the 24th to 28th. Confusion around a betrayal from someone you have always trusted a lot. Research and digging below the surface to unearth useful but hidden information is your forte. A few discrete inquiries from your end will reveal the underlying truth. This person may vehemently deny having played Judas when you confront him or her with bare facts. However, further prodding will crack them open. Tearful apologies and a realization of the mistake made are likely to come out during the conversation - or even much later when they have had time to come to terms with what they actually did. The stars foretell that you are unlikely to relent and be in a forgiving mood any time soon. This confrontation may unfortunately mark the end of a splendid long-term relationship you shared with this person.

SCORPIO December 2015

Early December will continue with the positive trends you experienced last month. Many things will transpire so fast that you won't know what is happening. Plans that had been lying dormant start showing sudden promise. Business Loans that were stuck for no apparent reason start showing positive indications. Your proposals will move faster and smoother. This is a good time to collaborate with friends for any business idea. Success of business plans is assured. Partnerships are favored. A senior male family member or relative may offer you precious advice around the 6th or the 8th. Follow those words of wisdom as they are likely to work to your advantage.

The 12th to the 18th is an exceptionally good time for those you who are spiritually inclined. You may find yourself drawn to some occult or metaphysical subjects. There may be an invitation to some short spiritual retreat involving yoga and meditation. Try and go if you have time. Your intuition and understanding of spiritual concepts will expand to a new level. Some participation in philanthropic activities is possible now. This is a good time to donate old clothes, toys and books. Don't hesitate to enter a raffle or a drawing to benefit charity.

This Christmas finds you more generous than usual. You will definitely not pinch pennies when selecting holiday gifts for family and friends. De keep in mind that it is not a good idea to buy the same item in bulk and present it to everyone. Choose individual gifts which suit the unique interests and needs of each person in your circle. This festive time is important for another reason. You will get introduced to someone very charming. A new romance or even a series of mini romances are on the horizon now. Relationships with the opposite sex are under favorable influences. Some of you may wax a bit too promiscuous. No harm there, as long as you realize what you are getting into and don't risk catching any illnesses.

SCORPIO January 2016

Last year was financially beneficial. As a result, early January 2015 is the time when you make the decision about getting some expensive repairs or renovations done to the interior of your home. You will have to dip into savings. However, you can't afford to put these urgent matters off for long. Safety would

become an issue. It would be prudent to get multiple estimates and references from friends as to both the honesty and quality of service offered by their favorite carpenter, mason, plumber or mechanic. However Mercury turns retrograde between the 5th to the 25th. So it's not a proper time to start anything new. It may be better to start the repair work after the 25th. Retrograde Mercury can cause unnecessary troubles and glitches. You may have to realize that certain repairs at home present strange hurdles which will cause annoying delays. The preparation phase may be a challenge. But the final product will thrill you.

Small differences of opinion with your partner are hinting at an inevitable emotional firestorm around the 11th. Some discomfort in the family due to an outsider's influence is possible too. If the interloper is a sibling, be tactful and diplomatic while solving the issue. Your partner could need medical attention from the 14th to the 17th. He or she could suffer from eye or throat related issues. It may be time for a medical checkup. In case you have any loans to repay, now is the time to clear them up.

The three F's: Fun, Family and friends will consume your time during the last two weeks of this month. You are going to have great fun catching up with a few people you haven't seen in ages. Some Scorpios may decide to work from home henceforth. There is something hermit-like about you. A home office could suit your operations. It would definitely allow you more family time. If you are over 65, you may decide not to retire, but rather to turn the guest room into your den and start working from home right there.

SAGITTARIUS

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR SAGITTARIUS 2015

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Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015
May 18 thru June 11, 2015
Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015
Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR SAGITTARIUS

Spunky Sagittarius,

In the past two years you have put in an enormity of effort. Some of these labors have been real drudgery: lifting and carrying and trying to get more efficient people to help you. And some of the grind has been about budgets and totting up figures to make ends meet. 2015 will bring you into a period of tranquility where you do not feel nearly so driven. You will be able to contemplate your next coup, plan restful holidays and reserve a substantial portion of your vital Sadge energy for LOVE. There is no lack of opportunity for Sagittarians in 2015. The problem? Too much choice can destabilize you. You are a straightforward person. You are not fond of mazes and avoid trick mirrors which distort the truth. Sheep years are complex and sometimes even labyrinthine. The Sheep is almost too creative. He or she can think up some ruses you would never identify in a million years as ploys. Therefore you - candid, sincere, helpful -Sagittarians may be unwittingly preyed upon. Ask all the right questions. Test people before trusting them.

As I pointed out before, you will spend a large part of 2015 mooning and strategizing about romance. It's either your current sweetheart's turn to wax passionate; and you two will languish for hours (even days) enlaced in each other's arms in bed. Or... if you have run out of main squeezes, you will be actively engaged in the pursuit of new love. Whether you go online to meet people or go to church to meet them, you are certain to take a fresh look at the type of person you take up with. Think hard. If a negative pattern has established itself in your love life (abusive partners, leeches, ne'er-do-wells, druggies et alia) go for someone entirely positive. You are often too nice and let yourself be charmed by someone else's weakness. Toughen up on yourself. Find somebody who adds to your life - not subtracts from it. sw SAGITTARIUS January 2015

Shortly after January 1, you may experience some kind of health accident which limits your ability to move about. Northern hemisphere Sages become more prone to slipping on the ice around this time. Southern hemisphere Sagittarians may step on a jellyfish on the beach. Or it may be a past physical problem reappearing. Perhaps the knee that never completely healed from that old soccer or field hockey injury goes out and you limp for a few days. Try to be patient and give yourself time to recover. Getting back on your feet too quickly now could result in a longer period of immobility later in the year. Kick back and be a good patient. Don't whine or snivel about the pain. Take your meds. Be kind to whomever is caring for you. Remember that you need their help more than they need to bring you that 30th glass of orange juice.

Being less active than usual could lead to an odd discovery. Maybe you spend more time online and track down some old friends on Facebook. To your surprise, you learn that two people who formerly hated each other are now married. Or you may see something unusual (even obscene) going on at your neighbor's home while you are convalescing on the couch. There are no steps to be taken in light of this revelation. Just enjoy and have a good giggle.

The last week of January may also bring you some unusual psychic experiences. You could have a premonition your co-worker is pregnant long before she makes the announcement. Or an old friend from high school appears in one of your dreams wearing ballet shoes and sporting a hole in her head. Puzzled, you Google her the next day. You find an article online from her local newspaper talking about a dance school she founded and mentioning that she had surgery last year for a brain tumor. Your neighbor tells you she can't find her cat. You immediately know that her feline friend was accidentally trapped in another neighbor's garage. Don't be afraid of this new talent. Instead, learn to develop it. Write down the psychic perceptions you receive, even if they seem eerie or inaccurate.

SAGITTARIUS February 2015

Mercury goes retrograde for the first 11 days of this month. For you, Sagittarius, it means glitches at the workplace. Deal more carefully with official emails. Do double check to see that very important messages or emails have reached the intended receiver. Oddly enough, you may notice electronics (especially those used for communication purposes) "fall sick" or simply give up their ghosts during this phase. Any misunderstandings cropping up between you and close partners will sort themselves out after February 11th so be patient.

The focus around February 5-14 is on health and nutrition. Not to imply that you have an existing issue with food. But you may come across an informative article or watch a TV program that prods you to think in this direction. You might feel like taking some steps to boost your energy and metabolism, which is really not a bad idea. Remember that an apple a day may not always keep the doctor away, but it will certainly keep you in better health. Eat fresh, seasonal fruits to aid your digestion and boost energy the natural way. Choose fresh juices over canned and avoid soda. And if you happen to be over 40, adding a broad spectrum multivitamin and other supplements to your daily diet will go a long way. Focus especially on getting enough iron and vitamin B12.

Some of you may suddenly have access to information regarding healing of a chronic or mysterious health problem around the 15th - 23rd of the month. To be clearer: the symptoms of this problem may be puzzling and evasive, rendering even seasoned medical specialists flummoxed. Around this time it is possible that you get hints or clues to a solution. It could be that you happen to overhear a conversation somewhere. Or it may be an article you read on an obscure website that will lead you to a natural solution with reduced chemical dependencies. Even if the disease is not completely obliterated, it can still be brought under some measure of control with the help of an alternative herbal therapy. Think Chinese remedies, acupuncture, or Ayurveda.

Your needle of attention is hovering over your financial position after the 23rd.

Are your bank balances in the red? Cash levels could be dipping now due to some impulsive overspending in December holidays. It's time for you to do some financial planning. Try to reduce the credit card spending. Figure out a sensible repayment schedule and stick to it. Be thrifty while shopping for groceries.

SAGITTARIUS March 2015

Your heart opens up like the proverbial blossoming of a red rose this month. Romance is in full bloom. An existing love relationship starts to get serious around the 5th of this month reaching its peak around the 9th. So do not miss this window of opportunity. The planetary influence will not be as favorable as this in a long while. It is time for a major relationship to bear fruit. Strike while the iron is hot. Now is the time to pop the big question. Or, write that long due love letter. Maybe whisk your significant other away on a romantic getaway. Take your partner by surprise. He or she is unlikely to say no.

Those of you who are single right now are very likely to find romance entering your life shortly after February 14th - Valentine's Day. This charismatic person will capture your attention instantly. You may find yourself in a whirlwind romance. The slightest flirtation on either side could escalate very quickly into physical passion. But wait. While you are reeling under this love spell, an ex who broke your heart earlier may try to make good by getting back in touch mid-month. Think carefully whether you are ready for some serious rekindled passion. Enjoy the fireworks. But do not expect too much to come of this rendezvous.

A change at workplace is indicated toward the end of this month. You may have a new reporting head. She or he is the kind of person who knows where to look for mistakes. Your new boss may make demands over the next few days that you may find hard to meet. But don't let their lack of appreciation upset you. You simply have to learn how to get on their right side. Try to be as thorough with your reports as possible. If you have subordinate staff, hold a small meeting. Explain them the scenario - what you expect from them and what is expected of you. Try ego-boosting compliments with your new boss. They never fail.

SAGITTARIUS April 2015

Early this month sees you getting you support for all your ventures. Work will be smooth and hassle free. You will remain in a cheerful state of mind. You may start getting interested in speculation, gambling and betting now. There could be an urge to look at all money-making possibilities seriously. Howsoever lucky you feel, do not try to jump into stock markets without reliable tips. Do online research and figure out the best traders and subscribe to their tips. Always use stop losses with your trades. You are likely to make decent profits through speculation in the coming months. Cash flows remain good thanks to the austerity measures you decided to initiate last month.

Your head is the clouds by 15th of this month. It's that phase when you feel you own the entire world. Drive carefully. The likelihood of your involvement in a minor fender bender exists. Parking lots in particular become a potential trouble zone for you right now. Don't get into any road rage face-offs. Let everybody else have the right of way. Do exercise caution. Choose to park your car far from others. Don't cross your limits while drinking at a party. One more drink before heading home could lead to a ticket for drunk driving or even cause a stupid accident. This is a good time to make sure your home and vehicle insurance policies are up to date.

There could have been a legal struggle related to the apportioning of a legacy earlier. It is likely to get resolved now after April 22nd and the outcome is favorable. May not exactly be a windfall, but it may land a tidy sum in your kitty. You may also be handed some papers regarding the Will of an elderly

relative for safekeeping. In case you are one of the beneficiaries, keep it secret. Do not reveal it to third parties. Any discussion about this with a sibling who is unaware may lead to a nasty argument.

SAGITTARIUS May 2015

An opportunity for travel arises around 3rd to 8th of this month. A close relative or a generous friend may gift you and your partner flight tickets to visit him or her. You could also win an “all expenses paid vacation trip for two” at a lucky dip at a shopping mall. By all means, take advantage of this opportunity. You and your partner can use this time to bond and fall even more deeply in love. This could be a chance to shower love and affection on your partner who often complains you don’t love him or her enough. You could also get ideas to work together on a creative project that will improve your finances in the coming year. If you go to a beach resort, keep your eyes solely on your partner. There will be multiple opportunities to flirt with others, but keep your eyes closed to these. Be careful with your jewelry, watch or mobile phone around the 11th April. There is a chance of theft of your belongings while traveling. Do not trust strangers who try to relate sob stories about how they lost their luggage and need to borrow money to go back home.

You are likely to develop interest in spiritual or occult matters after mid-May. If you are already inclined towards meditation, the dry spell you have been facing ends now. It is time to pursue your meditation with zeal and intention. Reading books on mystic side of yoga will be enlightening. If spirituality has been completely something unknown to you, it could now be stimulated by a chance encounter with a religious mentor. You may find yourself mulling over life after death. There are a lot of good books available on this subject written by people who have had after death experiences. Try and join some classes on esoteric practices or eastern mysticism if you like these books.

The planet of communication and travel - Mercury goes retrograde from the 19th May. Mercury retrograde is best used as a time for planning and attending to details. This period is not the best for altering your appearance or acquiring expensive new clothing. If new hair color or the new designer outfit you purchase now will seem disastrous to you next month after Mercury goes direct.

SAGITTARIUS June 2015

The beginning of June is a spell of hectic and scurried activity at workplace. Events at your workplace may be outpacing you and so you feel the need to work at breakneck speed. As the mercury is retrograde, delays and impediments with meetings, interviews and contracts will be a nuisance. An earlier goof-up which a colleague or subordinate has committed may come to light suddenly now and cause embarrassing moments for both you and your boss. This person may either resign or be fired. As a result you may be asked to handle his or her workload as well. High work pressure and deadlines may cause some late nights or weekend working. This tumultuous phase will keep you on your toes till June 11th after which things start getting normal gradually. June 11th to 18th is a suitable time to attend any job interviews. You can also approach your boss consider you for an upcoming plum assignment. Those who have applied earlier and are waiting are likely to get several good job offers now. A change of job or a new department is possible now.

Around the 20th, family matters will demand your attention. You may be called upon to offer your services to a close relative’s family in distress. This could a chronic health problem or some difficulty they may be facing. Do pitch in and help in whatever capacity you possibly can. Run a few errands or maybe take them a casserole. But cautious not to promise more than you can reasonably deliver. Display a caring and open attitude and it will come back to you in shovelfuls.

Be careful with what you say and how you voice your feelings at home around the 25th. Conversations could get out of hand if you are too quick to assume what others are thinking. Either due to your quick

temper or rigid opinions on some matters, a casual remark may quickly escalate into a heated argument. This could happen either with a family member or an acquaintance. Your partner is likely to rise to the occasion and mediate. Think before you speak. Take a deep breath. Hear people out before you offer an opinion.

SAGITTARIUS July 2015

You may be torn between two equally attractive choices with regards to work early in July. It's all good news. There are rewards and appreciation. Your reputation at workplace rises. So there is nothing to worry about. Look to an older, respected male figure in your life to ask for advice. Go ahead and approach authority and money figures with renewed confidence. Decide early on what it is you are really angling for, whether it's a promotion, or that desk by the bay window. The stars are in your favor now, so go right ahead and ask for what you want. Bring your charm and good-natured humor to work. You will appear to be self-assured and deserving. And when you're like this, there is little that can be denied you.

Mid-month keep your wits about you and pay close attention to transactions, especially "invisible money". What do we mean by that? Think online shopping. Think stock trading or any other kind of monetary transaction that does not happen face to face. Make sure to read your credit card statements. Check your bills before paying them in case there are errors. Did you really order four steaks or three at lunch? Check! Whenever possible, choose a cash-on-delivery option. Avoid the hassle. This is a time for money mischief, so keep your eyes open.

With all this focus on work and personal finances, you might find yourself feeling more wound up than usual around 23rd of the month. Don't run to the doctor yet. And don't worry unnecessarily. Your body and mind are simply asking for some "me time". Take time out for short walks. Get some fresh air. Get a head massage. Or just play with the puppy. You'd be surprised how the littlest things can alleviate the spirit. If you don't have a pet, consider getting a goldfish or a turtle. They symbolize prosperity and are considered lucky as per Feng Shui.

SAGITTARIUS August 2015

August is named after the roman emperor Augustus, renowned for his fondness of good food, wine and big parties. Keeping with tradition, this will be the month of parties. You could watch your wallet empty itself as you go on a gift-buying spree. In the enthusiasm of celebration, you may quite happily cross your card as well as your carb limit. Go easy on the eating and drinking from the 4th to the 12th of the month. This minor abstinence will keep you in better health – both physically and financially. Here is something to keep in mind: there are some great gifts that cost nothing. Use your imagination more than you do dollars.

There is every chance that you cross paths with an exciting stranger around 15th to 20th of this big party month. You may find that there is an incredible chemistry that you both share. A close pal may be anxious to hook you both up. However, this special someone could already be involved in another significant relationship. So if romance is what you want, better know what you are getting into. This chance encounter is unlikely to be anything more than a passionate weekend romance. So have fun but take responsibility for your choices as unorthodox as they may be.

The last week of August will highlight friendships for you. Friends or associates from your past may appear unexpectedly. You can expect to indulge in great camaraderie and enjoy the fruits of unconditional affection. However there is a flip side to everything. Where there is loyalty, you will often find gossip. Where there is good company, you will also find someone who relishes putting down others and backbiting. Your best bet would be to keep a slight distance from people you don't know too well. Back off at the slightest hint of negativity. Keep your pantry clean and you can rest assured you will be living out August out in great festivity.

SAGITTARIUS September 2015

You may be moved to take up a new hobby or creative pursuit around the 6th of this month. It could be any Venus ruled hobby like gardening, music, dance or poetry. Your enthusiasm for this new pastime will grow steadily. If you are gardening, borrow a few books on the subject from your local library. If it's poetry that piques your interest, try attending a poetry reading session nearby. If you fancy dance, join weekend classes at a nearby dance school. You get some mild success at your initial attempts at dabbling with this newfound leisure activity. However as you delve deeper, you will get passionate about it. Over the next few years, your hobby will continue to delight and reward you. Remember to stick at it. Invest some time and money. Your hobby is a good way to reduce your stress and give your partner a break in the bargain.

Mercury is turning retrograde on 17th. Technology snafus may interfere with your plans at workplace. Use the next few days to re-organize important data in your laptop. You might want to take time to clean out your overloaded e-mail boxes. Avoid signing binding documents. Don't buy expensive electronic equipment. Expect the devices you do own to dysfunction. One or more of the kitchen appliances may be a little wonky around this time. The oven may not heat properly or the dishwasher may make too much noise. You might also feel like emptying all stuff in the shelves and do a thorough cleaning. A broken faucet leading to a minor flood in the kitchen might necessitate a call to the plumber. If there are any creaky cupboards that need to be repaired or a loose tile that needs replacement, you might as well consider renovating a section of the kitchen.

Those who have young children at home should be particularly alert regarding their health around the 27th. Your son or daughter could catch an infection at school and fall seriously sick. Another possibility is that your child makes an excuse to plays hooky. Instead of going to school, he or she may be found playing or watching movies. Do pay close attention to the kind of company he keeps. Guide the child lovingly but be firm.

SAGITTARIUS October 2015

Mercury remains retrograde till October 9th. As a precautionary measure, do not sign any contracts, legal documents or enter into partnerships when the mercury is retrograde. Any agreements entered into may have to be altered later. Planets point to a possibility that you may have to undergo a minor surgery at this time during the first two weeks of this month. Whether you slip and break a toe or sprain your wrist or ankle, the accident will be relatively minor. But getting the right medical assistance might not be so simple. You might face hurdles. Healing may take longer. And in some cases, the patient needs another surgery as the first one may not be successful. If the surgery is cosmetic, make certain to locate the most talented surgeon through friends and former patients. Do all the research necessary. But elective surgeries and any health procedures are better postponed till 9th October.

Around the 15th, you may feel itchy for some sort of modifications that you have been contemplating in your home. It's time to shed lingering negative energy. You could start with choosing your favorite color. Paint one wall of your bedroom that shade. Buy sheets and pillowcases in a hue which matches or even contrasts with the paint. Get new drapes and shades for the windows. Buy and display a delightful item like a vase, framed drawing or painting which will enhance the room. If you have a small child living in your house, paint one wall with chalkboard paint so he/she can draw on the walls with impunity. The effort will be worth it. You will have ushered positive vibrant energy into your home.

23rd to 25th may find you mulling over a certain career move that you had in your mind. You may also be thinking about a gig which gives you a chance to express your creativity. You are likely to reach out to close friends for advice regarding this. With the positive energy at home, your self-confidence will be

restored. There will be further opportunities in the coming weeks to balance home and office life better.

SAGITTARIUS November 2015

You may suddenly get an email or phone call from an ex-lover around the 3rd to 7th of this month. You could have shared a love and hate relationship with this person in the past. It is possible that he or she is slightly schizophrenic. If it's an email, just don't respond. If it's a phone call, be careful while interacting with this person. Politely excuse yourself if he or she suggests coffee or dinner. It is best for you to forget this relationship altogether. Some bitter memories could come and haunt you for a day or two. You may also subject your current relationship to a review subconsciously, though you may physically be with the person. It would be good to re-evaluate whether the people who you daily spend time with, add to your life or drain you. Nurture only positive relationships in your life. Distance yourself from individuals who are selfish or bossy. You don't need possessive lovers. You need a relationship where your loved one is liberated in the head. A friend may be going through a bitter divorce around this time and may turn to you for advice and comfort.

The 13th to the 20th are fabulous days for financial transactions and professional projects as Sun and Mercury boost your business prowess. Make the most of any moneymaking opportunities that come along. Try to save now as inflows are comfortable. Business friendships are favored, as you find creative ways to share information with others. Mixing business with pleasure will lead to a winning situation. Invite your clients to a game of golf. You are sure to get more business and strike bigger deals in the coming months.

A phase of mental confusion and fogginess appears between the 24th to the 30th. Your thoughts are jumbled, haphazard and scattered all over the place like leaves in a storm. You may find it difficult to sit at one place peacefully for very long. What appears to be a logical decision may sound absurd and illogical when you think again after some time. Avoid drinking fizzy drinks and too much coffee during the day. It will help you to regain your focus. Early morning meditations and deep breathing is a good idea to calm down your frayed nerves. Inverted yoga postures allow more blood and oxygen to reach the brain. Even a couple of minutes doing headstands does wonders for those of us with a sedentary lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS December 2015

Early December is likely to bring excellent financial news. You or your partner may be offered your dream job with a fat pay package. Or either of you may be given an out of turn raise or promotion. The month is also auspicious for those who are struggling with small businesses. Your trickle income may suddenly take a big leap. The profits are way beyond your expectations and requirements. However, stash the money safely. Think first in terms of savings and sound investments. Then buy yourself and your sweetheart some luxury items you couldn't afford for too long. Some of you may also plan to branch off in new areas of activity.

Your creative projects will likely gain support of some sort around the 9th to the 16th December. Struggling writers, actors and singers will start getting recognition. If you are in the entertainment industry, you may finally get that elusive big break you have been longing for. You feel immensely encouraged. It's like you will be able to achieve miracles at this time. You have always wanted work that showcased your true talent and allowed you to focus on your personal interests. You are on cloud nine.

Christmas is joyful and you are full of gratitude. Buy expensive Christmas gifts for everyone. You may feel like throwing lavish parties for friends and loved ones. Some of you may feel invincible after riding the recent wave of success and want to visit Vegas or Monte Carlo after the 21st. The temptation to hit it big will be enormous. Take risks. Speculate by all means, if you want to. Go for the jugular in everything. But stay within limits and know when to quit. The roulette wheel is treacherous. Most of the people

visiting Casinos come decked with diamonds, watches and expensive accessories. Many of them go back with no clothes. The house always wins.

SAGITTARIUS January 2016

Mercury is retrograde most of this month starting from January 5th. Be careful because communications may go awry and some skeletons may pop out of the closet leading to embarrassments around the 8th to the 13th. Someone you respect a lot and have treated as your guardian angel and well-wisher for years may cause you disappointment around the 6th of January. You may turn to this person for counsel for some important family matters but receive some misguided advice, which leads you into a mess. The advice given is likely to be biased or prejudiced. It may pain you to think that your mentor is not infallible and perfect. This person could be an elderly uncle or aunt or even older sibling. Do get another opinion before you decide on your course of action. This is not a good time to sign any papers for property investments, settlements, negotiations and agreements. Avoid business travel on 13th and 14th January.

Socializing and networking is favored in the New Year, but don't neglect loved ones in the process. The 17th or 18th finds you locked in a heated argument with your partner. He or she complains about getting cold vibes from you. You are accused of being selfish and unreasonable. Another reason for their anger may be that you are too lost in your work. You don't express love anymore. Listen to some of the gripes silently because they are likely to make sense to you. Don't overreact or you will end up in a stalemate. Swallow your ego and put yourself in their shoes. Acknowledging your mistakes will not make you appear small. It will only end the argument from blowing up into something much worse. Be respectful of your partner's feelings. Avoid saying anything condescending. When it's your turn to talk, you can share your own concerns without accusation. Make reconciliation and compromise your goals in this discussion. Hug your partner tightly and apologize. Make love and put an end to the story.

Do not lend, borrow or donate money between the 20th to the 25th. Back away from anyone who is trying to get something from you. If you let your heart rule your head, you are likely to lose emotionally and financially during this phase. Focus on self-improvement and picking up additional skills at the workplace. All projects concerning personal growth will turn out well now. Some diplomacy may be required to take advantage of a business and career opportunity at this month's end.

CAPRICORN

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR CAPRICORN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR CAPRICORN

Conventional Capricorns,

Disruptive changes are in the stars for Capricorns in 2015. As you prefer things to remain as they are/were, these major modifications in your lifestyle may irritate and even upset you. Because of these revisions, your long-term love relationship which till now, has always run more or less smoothly will be tested. The first part of the Sheep Year 2015 is about adjusting, adapting and trying to learn how to be flexible.

Taking life as it comes is not your strong suit. You want to mold and shape things to your liking. Circumstances beyond your control will scotch even your best-laid plans. Kick back. Let go and let God. Healthy finances do ease your constraints. Your hard work in the past has stood you and your family in good stead. If you are feeling gloomy over transitions, splurge a bit. Spend some money on your wardrobe, beauty spa treatments, manicures, massage, travel - to name a few.

Gradually, with the passage of the Sheep year, you will become the person you have been striving to become. You will gain in focus. What felt like work will become a walk in the park. Nobody will be more surprised than you that a supple approach and cooperative attitude really works. In 2015, while other areas of your life seem burdensome, your health will vastly improve. By the end of the summer, you will marvel at how your body's previous complaints have diminished. To maintain this relief from pain and suffering, stick to a low gluten and non-sugar plant-based diet. sw

CAPRICORN January 2015

Take some time to renew yourself in this gap between the beginning of the Western New Year and the commencement of the Year of the Sheep on February 19th. Grab a mental health day or two off from work. For your day off, make a list of activities. Call it: “Enjoyable things I used to do but don't have time for anymore.” Select some items at random from the list and force yourself to devote your time off to these

pleasant activities.

Get together with your new friend from last year around the 12th. It is important to perpetuate this camaraderie. He or she challenges you and prevents you from growing stale. The middle of January is also a good time to update your appearance. If you're feeling daring, get a new tattoo or a discreet piercing. Or change your hairstyle or hair color. At the very least, buy some new clothes. Select your new outfit from a store you normally deem a bit too far out for your style. Capricorn is a sign known seeming to age in reverse, becoming more youthful with each passing year. Do not let preconceptions about "acting or looking your age" limit you.

Single Capricorns have a marvelous opportunity for meeting Mr. or Ms. Right this month. If no social invitations do come your way, try hunting up someone online. Internet dating no longer carries a stigma. A 2013 study actually found that marriages between people who met online were likely to be more stable. Remember that your mission is to find the right person. Not to gain dating site popularity. The quality of responses you receive counts more than the quantity. Choose someone who shares or at least appreciates and respects your interests. Define your boundaries way ahead of meeting in person. Talk extensively with potential dates before meeting them face-to-face. Arrange all initial in-person meetings in a safe public place such as a coffeehouse. Remember. The Year of The Sheep starts late (Feb 19) this year. If you keep at it, you have a good chance of finding romance before the Chinese New Year comes barging in.

CAPRICORN February 2015

Mercury is retrograde for the first 11 days of this month. This planetary phenomenon causes sudden changes in plans at your workplace. The fax machine or phone on your desk may malfunction. And if you are not scanning outside email attachments, you may find your laptop virus infested. Do keep your files backed up properly or you could risk losing your precious data. Long distance travel may become a pain in the neck. Delayed or cancelled flights, missing baggage and misplaced travel documents are very likely. Avoid holding decisive business meetings and signing agreements during this phase. Any legal agreements now will need subsequent changes and rider clauses will be added later.

You have been spending money wisely so far. However there are going to be many unexpected and unavoidable expenses this month. A very close friend may visit you for a few days around 14th Feb. This person is likely to expect you to take him or her around the town. You may end up being a perfect host and spending a lot on local sightseeing and buying gifts for your friend. And inspired with all this, you yourself are likely to be on a shopping spree around 16th February. Yes, this retail therapy is going to lift your spirits. However the shopping cart may look like it's an endless pit. So remind yourself to keep a watchful eye on your credit card spending. Otherwise your card bills are going to spiral into a "make an immediate payment" zone. Yes, you do have enough savings for now. But it's always prudent to save for a rainy day.

The last few days of February offer you a good time to set aside mutual differences with your better half. Days will be bright and evening will be charming. A few romantic evening walks will blow away any cobwebs in your relationship. Initially some old wounds and grievances may surface. But by the end of it, all issues will dissolve. Both of you will feel emotionally and physically rejuvenated.

CAPRICORN March 2015

Circumstances are coming together to give you an accident-prone and time early this month. You may have to do a lot of heavy lifting or other such chores around the house. Perhaps you decide to move furniture or clean your attic or basement around Feb 8th. You may not be very attentive during this phase. So practice caution while handling tools or unusual objects. Make sure a first-aid kit is at hand. Conflict situations at home also bother you. An elderly relative in immediate or extended family may be harsh with you at a

gathering. This may lead to a minor dispute. The conversation may hover around the fact that you need to make a certain change in your life. This person is very well known and respected. Do not retaliate. Think twice before you speak. You may just blurt out something in anger and then regret it later.

You will be able to repay an existing loan to a close friend by middle of this month. This is an excellent time for those of you who are looking for long-term loans. Long outstanding business and personal dues also will get realized around this time. Any court cases related to property may suddenly take a turn in your favor around the 3rd week of this month. If you are stressed out, this is a favorable time to try alternate therapies like pranic energy healing and aromatherapy for depression or similar issues.

Your digestion is likely to give you a tough time after 20th Feb. Sleep pattern may also get disturbed due to stomach problems. A change of diet is imperative. Avoid those usual heavy breakfasts and lunches for a few weeks at least. And stop raiding the refrigerator late nights. Try to eat light every 2 hours instead. Eat more of fresh seasonal fruits. If you have been eating out lately, there may be some item which doesn't quite agree with you. Try to find out what it is. If you are feeling extremely low in energy, you could also be gluten or dairy intolerant. Get a checkup done for thyroid levels too.

CAPRICORN April 2015

The first week of this month brings some unexpected favorable developments at work. The new scenario may require you to take charge and make some crucial business decisions. This is something you had been secretly hoping for in a long time. There may be a test of your managerial, communication and team building skills. You will be in a strong position to put together a team and work towards a collective goal. Self-improvement techniques will do wonders at your workplace. Create a plan of action around new business ideas to keep them going. A senior level colleague who has been a mentor will give positive inputs and set an example. This will enable you to make wise choices during the coming months. A cultural event at workplace around the 11th April will be quite enlightening. Invite people home to discuss group fundraising events and outings. Opportunities to meet new and exciting people are certain if you socialize in the evenings. You will learn a lot from other's knowledge and experience.

A phase of closeness, bonding and affection lights up your life around the 16th April. Your partner will notice this change in your eyes. Cupid will strike now. If you are single, you might find yourself irresistibly drawn to someone. Do not be shy or afraid to take the first step. You are likely to get positive signals the moment you drop the slightest hint. The relationship formed now can result in marriage next year.

Some new sport, hobby or leisure activity draws you to enjoy yourself after the 21st. Enroll for those golf classes you always wanted to join. A weekend photography class can be quite interesting. Learning a foreign language will be fun and also expand your horizons. Be ready to put in a little extra effort though. These fun activities can become really rewarding for you later on.

CAPRICORN May 2015

You are going to be charismatic and dynamic this month, which is going to be very attractive to the opposite sex. So don't be surprised if a colleague asks you out. You may find a friend suddenly starting to flirt with you. Go for it. Don't hold back. A little playful flirting doesn't hurt anyone. You will also seek a luxurious environment around you. Some of you will go to the extent of reorganizing office and home space. Make it a little open and airy. Positive energies are attracted to such a place by themselves. The travel bug may bite you hard around May 8th. Go ahead and plan a getaway of some kind. If you and your partner are not financially flush right now, opt for a brief luxury trip rather than a protracted vacation. The luxurious surroundings will leave a more lasting impression. Besides, at a deluxe hotel you are more likely to socialize with people high enough up the social and professional ladder. These contacts will aid

your own progress in some way. Pack your most elegant attire. Don't go down to breakfast in the morning until you have completed your toilette. You may run into a celebrity who you briefly met earlier. He or she will want to be in regular friendly touch.

You are likely to run into an unusual person around 14th. This person may behave in an erratic way with you. He or she could belong to the gay or lesbian community. Make no judgments. But ask questions about the reason for this erratic behavior. There just might be a message in this experience that will teach you something about yourself.

Mercury turns retrograde on May 19th. Avoid abrupt changes and do not sign contracts or documents without reading them carefully. Business travel plans may be delayed, cancelled or rescheduled. Some news from afar may pull you down during this phase. It could be about some financial deal you were expecting. Stress builds up inside your mind. Do yourself a favor and disconnect from the media for some time. You don't have to check Facebook and Twitter every single day. Take a break. It isn't mandatory to follow everything that is happening to everyone around you.

CAPRICORN June 2015

Mercury is retrograde till the 11th June. A secret of yours may suddenly be exposed to the public around the 7th of this month. You may have to put up with some embarrassment for a week or more. It may be related a radical viewpoint that you endorse. It's best to avoid any arguments about religion, politics, racial issues, publishing and anything to do with the media. Any disdainful behavior from you will result in flared tempers and insinuations from others. It will be easy to be misunderstood. So behave with extra kindness to everyone around you. If you have been donating to a popular charity, make sure the local gossip mongers learn of your generosity. People will be more likely to be sympathetic to your predicament if they also learn of your compassionate side. It's possible that you may get too distracted with all this to attend to routine life. But do not worry and drown yourself in alcohol. This situation is temporary and will soon be forgotten.

You are likely to be calmer waters by 17th June. This will be a good week to organize or plan something constructive for your career. Approach the higher authorities at your workplace for an overdue promotion. Do some online research and find out courses that will help you professionally. Enroll for any weekend courses available. In fact, you will want to introduce more order in your life too. Joining yoga classes for those in sedentary professions is especially good now. The tip for you is to resist the sudden urge to do something – whether at work or in daily life. Instead, sleep over your decisions. Give everything a second thought. Think and then act. Look before you leap.

You may be grappling with financial issues around 24th June. A very gentle and friendly person may be introduced to you by your partner. You may get to spend some quality time with this person. He or she will offer you sound advice for domestic and financial issues and much more. The meeting will turn out to be transformational and healing. Rest of the week is a good time to curry some favors with friends and influential people. They will only be too happy to help you get your ducks in a row.

CAPRICORN July 2015

Business and career takes centre stage first half of this month. Interesting new ideas and opportunities come up. Some new information related to your business will spark enthusiasm among all partners during the 1st week of July. A small get together and celebration is in the offing. Your business partners are supportive and kind. But they expect positive inputs from you. Don't lament about problem areas during this get together. They may be having big plans for you, which they haven't revealed yet. If employed and you want to change departments, this is the month to start connecting and networking with the hiring managers. At this time, you will come across those who will try to undermine your confidence. However

there is no point in worrying about what other people are saying. You can't change negative attitudes. Focus on what is meaningful and pretend that gossip and cynics do not exist.

You may have a strong urge to travel or could be asked to travel internationally for work around the 11th. However, there may be a few problems with delegating your work before you leave. You are likely bump into an old friend while on this trip. You may have helped this person a few years back. Meeting him or her now will prove to be a boon for you. This friend will be helpful in making a lot of connections in the right places. Due to this generous help, you will manage to get a new project underway and earn accolades for it.

It's time to be a helpful Samaritan around the 20th of this month. An elderly relative or acquaintance that you are particularly fond very fond of is likely to make demands on your time. He or she may need and request help with health care appointments, grocery shopping, assistance with personal grooming tasks etc. Try to recruit other relatives to help you cope with this older person's needs. Also look into community resources such as volunteers from a social service agency. Find out if the older person's place of worship offers some kind of home visit services. It may be time to look into a senior housing facility.

CAPRICORN August 2015

Romance and relationships rule the air early this month. If you are single, you will feel like laying your heart at someone's feet. Now the interesting part is – this is someone you work with and haven't noticed yet. But the person has been trying hard to gain your affection. He or she may play a much greater role in your life in the coming months or years. This may not just be an office romance. It could be an opportunity for an unusual and unlikely combination of mind and spirits that could reach loftier dimensions. This person will compliment you in many more ways than you could possibly imagine. Yes, there is a physical attraction. But there is something platonic and heartwarming about this friendly and loving relationship. And anyways - who needs a lover that can't be a friend? Go out for some coffee and movie dates. Get to know each other as much as possible. This relationship will draw closer as you share dreams and purposes with each other.

You get novel ideas of making money around 15th. In case you have a shop, giving attractive cash discounts to customers will help you increase sales. You are likely to attend a workshop or seminar related to creation of abundance and prosperity. This powerful program will help to weed away negative beliefs around money that were planted in your youth. Your finances start improving rapidly hereafter.

The week after 22nd is very interesting. Generally speaking, you are a down-to-earth person who doesn't feel a particular calling to spirituality. However dreams and visions of dead people may start haunting you. Your subconscious could be connected with an unparalleled event in the past, such as a near death experience. Intrigued by all this – you may get seriously interested with occult sciences like Kabala and the like. Think about undertaking some form of meditation or other spiritual practice. Read a few books. All this will leave a lasting impression on your mind. You are likely to visit a spiritual place within this month and encounter someone who will answer a lot of your questions.

CAPRICORN September 2015

Wedding bells are ringing this month for those of you who are in love. It is the time of reuniting with loved ones and expanding your family with children. Even strained relationships with siblings will improve around this time. Expect visits from relatives around 5th to 12th. Talks about honeymoon destinations and exotic locations will occupy your days. Your love partner may want the two of you to move into a new relationship phase. Perhaps he or she wants you to merge your households. You may find the idea very attractive yet feel hesitant. Do have a candid discussion about finances. Your partner may harbor very different ideas about spending, saving and investing. Better to discuss things calmly now than

to have a heated argument when you have merged a few of your assets and cannot extricate yourself. Be very clear and communicative to avoid misunderstandings later.

7th to 18th is excellent time for students who are pursuing higher education. Those appearing for competitive examinations of any kind will clear them with flying colors. Writers are also likely to see some kind of gains through publications. Newly published novels may get rave reviews from critics. Some opportunities for extensive overseas travel are also coming up in this month. This travel may be related to learning or teaching in formal or informal settings. Sharing knowledge will prove to be beneficial.

Mercury goes retrograde on the 17th of this month. Be prepared to contend with more delays and confusion than usual in regard to communication and transportation. It's nothing worth becoming too anxious about. But Mercury retrograde often creates confusion and obviates the use of our best reason when signing documents and entering into agreements. Long-term commitments are avoidable during this phase. Someone may approach you with a business proposition around 19th. You may get a long-winded "only for today, gone tomorrow, never again" presentation. Be more cautious and take everything with a pinch of salt. A lot of pyramid and scam schemes float around. The only people who make serious money are those who floated them in the first place. Listen to everything patiently and ask a few questions. No need to make sarcastic or negative comments. However do not commit to anything. You can politely excuse yourself later saying you are too busy or preoccupied with other things.

CAPRICORN October 2015

Words are like arrows. Once released, you cannot recall them. Early October may test a few relationships at workplace. With mercury being retrograde till the 9th, you need to be careful about your communications – written and oral. You will have a tendency to say what you feel. But you are likely to burn a few hearts with what you say around 7th or 8th. Read your emails at least 5 times before you send them out. You need to weigh your words before speaking. And think about the impact they can have. Some colleagues are more sensitive than you realize. They may shrink away from you now, seeing your verbally ruthless behavior. You may be impatient to get a solution to a problem you are facing. But try not to step on other people's toes. The simplest way to be on good terms with your colleagues or subordinates is to always give them plenty of support and encouragement. The more you praise and encourage them, the more positive and productive you yourself will feel. Lead by example.

Mid October may bring some heart or eye related issues. Health checkups and hospital visits are indicated. A chronic health problem connected to a senior family member will be a source of trouble. Certain domestic complications that arise out of this will be handled diplomatically by you.

This is a good month to go in for a new vehicle. If you've been experiencing intermittent trouble with your car, it may be wiser to in the long run, to invest in a new one rather than spending further money on repairs. Starts foretell some expensive repairs may necessitate a new vehicle after the 22nd. Do your research online and read independent consumer advice websites. The auto manufacturers' information may not always give the correct picture. Do look at a few hybrid cars. They are more environment-friendly. You shell out more initially but you will save money on gas. So it turns out to be more economical as well.

CAPRICORN November 2015

According to Chinese philosophy Yin and Yang are opposite and balancing forces in nature. Together they also represent the masculine and feminine. Life, however, is cruel and fragile. This balance goes off kilter now and then. Many of you may find yourselves bored of romantic relationships in the beginning of this month. The very act of lovemaking will also seem dull—as if you could sleep through it. A petty quarrel

with your partner may occur around the 4th or 5th of the month. You could be asocial and behave irritably over the next few days. Your partner is also in no mood to compromise. Mornings and evenings are spent bickering over inconsequential things. Arguments over who has to empty the trash and who's picking up the baby from daycare will make you wish you were single again. Your partner will seem unappreciative and may blame you for not pulling your weight. It could be time to step outside and take a short break. Plan a weekend getaway and spend some time in the outdoors, or with close friends. If you can afford it, make it a week. Be warned: avoid rekindling old flames and hooking up with exes. Having said that, a cheery phone call or chat could certainly refresh and enliven your spirits. You and your partner kiss and make up by the 13th when all is forgiven and forgotten.

By the 18th of this month, you realize that there is a definite reason for boredom and subdued sexual feelings. Both of you suddenly wake up to the fact that you are not physically attractive and fit in comparison to others in the friends circle. Libido is down. Skin is sagging around the belly. Both are not getting as much exercise as needed. You need to have start working on a personal fitness regime. Make a start with early morning long walks and jogs. Instead of taking the car, walk to nearby shops. Take the stairs - not the elevator. Work on getting back your ideal weight and muscle tone. Look around for a trainer who is ruthless with the number of reps. Join zumba or aerobic classes. And curb your intake of carbs and fat. Latest research has it that coconut oil is the best oil for health. Eat more green salads with olive oil and lemon dressing and drink fruit smoothies.

CAPRICORN December 2015

Children and investments are the ruling themes of December. You may receive complaints about the poor performance of one of your children around the 2nd week of December. The child could be slow in grasping concepts and needs special attention and coaching. Fix up a meeting with the class teacher and arrange for after school tuitions. You could also seek an expert help to evaluate any learning disability. Do not discipline the child. Give it assurance that you are there to help. This will strengthen the child's self-confidence and self esteem. Probe the child lovingly. Try to find out if he or she has any communication problems with other school kids or is bullied around. You could bring this to the attention of the class teacher. These problems faced by children may be small molehills for you. But they are mountains for them at their sensitive age.

On or near the 12th, there may be a sudden financial need. You may have to dig into savings that had been locked into an investment for an extended period. This is not going to be a problem and you can make necessary withdrawals now. A sumptuous bonus is coming your way and you are likely to get a good raise soon. Finances are going to be good at workplace or business. Another wonderful investment opportunity is likely to come your way in February. It may be in a startup which is likely to yield huge dividends in the future. Grab it after due diligence.

This Christmas promises to be extra bright and cheerful for two reasons. One - It seems lady luck will accompany Santa when he squeezes himself down your chimney this time. Two - this time the Stork is also flying by your roof. You are likely to win some tickets to a vacation resort or get some major holiday travel discounts. The holiday season will also feature a happy announcement and celebration. Your family may be expecting a new member – either birth or adoption. Alternately, there may be a grandchild on the way. The child born now will be exceedingly lucky for the family. He or she will attract prosperity and affluence right from the time of birth.

CAPRICORN January 2016

Mercury is retrograde most of this month starting from Jan 5th and ending on Jan 25th. This month is going to present an opportunity to make a major decision regarding your career. You may be contacted by a

headhunter with an offer of a dream role with a multinational organization between the 8th and the 14th of January. However it comes at a price. This role may necessitate relocation to a distant city by February or March. Due to the mercury retrograde there may be several rounds of personal and telephonic interviews and negotiations. So don't expect a quick selection. In fact, you should insist on a written offer. And negotiate aggressively. Ask for joining bonus and stock options. Things are likely to go awry with any verbal promises made to you during interview. It is easy to backtrack with things that are not in black and white.

Expect a positive change in your social status and reputation in the middle of January. You may be conferred some kind of an award or recognition at workplace. You are likely to take advantage of this phase and some image building exercise is indicated. Watch out for a minor injury to the legs around 17th or 18th. Ego hassles are likely to crop up between business partners due to some miscommunication or inaccuracy in official documents. This will get sorted out once the Mercury goes direct after 25th January. The phase after 20th January shows you working on restructuring personal finances. This is a good time to recover any debts owed to you and address your own debts. Take steps to clear any lingering financial burdens from the past. Do yourself a favor and keep friends and finances apart from now on. As a matter of fact, be aloof and detached from affairs of friends for a couple of weeks. You may develop serious misunderstandings with them now. Play neutral if called to intervene in a tricky issue between two friends between 25th and 30th January.

AQUARIUS

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR AQUARIUS 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: "**retrograde**".

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR AQUARIUS

Insightful Aquarians.

You Aquarians are just plain not mainstream. A little "kooky" is a nice way to phrase it. Heads up! 2015 bodes many novel adventures coming your way. Never mind. You love zany experiences. If you don't work it off in sports or other physical exercise, excess nervous energy will plague you. Ask for the support of your friends and family. If they refuse or duck out of their responsibilities as true cronies, drop them and move on. Your intimate relationship moves rather more smoothly than it did last year. Caution! If you are too lax and do not lend sufficient attention to your lover, they may stray. This betrayal could occur in July or August. If you don't keep your radar switched on, you will be the last to know.

By September you should have reached your cruising altitude. Money becomes central and begins to flow in from all directions. Save and budget. But do treat yourself to one or two luxuries in October when the urge to squander will be upon you. Put the brakes on the splurge. Lock your bank account up tight and throw away the key. Your love life perks up late in the year. If you ended your rocky relationship after the August incident, you will be lusting after new blood. The fresh passion will be found where you least expect it. The library or in the elevator at the local hospital. A family member's health will be on your mind, as will some dental issues of your own in December. See to both promptly so that neither turns into anything grave. Take better care of your lover at the end of the Sheep year. They are enduring a difficult emotional loss and need your comfort, affection and support. sw AQUARIUS January 2015

As a result of that successful project back in September, someone has set you an even more daunting task for this month. If you passed Calculus I, you may have been automatically placed in Calculus II. Or your boss may have decided you could handle an even more formidable project. Interestingly, you may not feel

up to the challenge. You feel heavy. It's as if you have been asked to translate the complete works of Shakespeare into ancient Greek. The project may cost you tears of frustration. You may fling your textbook or assignment against the wall. Ask for assistance. Or delegate parts of your project to a co-worker. If you still feel stymied, sometimes the correct path is to simply let go of what you cannot handle. It makes no sense to bang your head against a wall. Explain to your boss or professors that your areas of expertise lie elsewhere. If nothing else, the experience will have taught you something about yourself. By a process of elimination, you are gradually finding out where you are an absolute genius and where you are a dolt.

Romance has been eluding you. Make some effort to find a companion with whom you click on a lot of different levels. Creating satisfying sex is always one important hurdle in a love affair. But try to hook up with someone who is intellectually and astrologically compatible with you as well.

You may decide to sell that valuable property you inherited. Consult more than one person for advice on this topic. Be wary of the suggestions of people who stand to earn a percentage from your sale. Instead, seek advice from people you know who have long real estate experience. Some of your friends may have been buying and selling houses for years. Ask them to share their insider knowledge of how the market works.

Follow up on your resolve from December to get involved in volunteer work. Most Aquarians have very strong social principles. Taking positive action in regard to your ideals will help you feel more useful and energized. Also, your benevolent efforts will introduce you to a large group of people who share similar beliefs to yours.

AQUARIUS February 2015

Mercury retrograde ends on Feb 11th. Missing and delayed email messages, software malfunction and commuting issues get resolved. Mainly, two words sum up this month – Property & Vehicle. Shifting houses, improvements and repairs in residence or sale and purchase of some property are highlights for the first half of this month. Some decorating improvements may be essential now. Give your home a cosmetic facelift this month. If you can, why not hire an interior decorator? Ask them to incorporate some Feng Shui for positive energies. It's a good time to buy a new Persian carpet and/or hang new blinds. Find that scintillating crystal chandelier for the living room. A leaky roof repair or replacement of some grungy bathroom tile is also possible. Shying away from these expenses now means inviting headaches later on in the year.

A property you have put on sale may have uninvited visitors of the non-human variety milling about in its attic or basement. Unless you want to raise the price based on the plethora of squirrels, bats, ants, termites, raccoons or snakes, have the property inspected by a specialist. Either this “for sale” property or one of your vehicles may bear the brunt of a weather event around 14th to 19th. It could be a tree branch crashes onto your car during a storm. Or a torrential rainfall or leakage could cause water to overflow into your basement. Make sure your home and auto insurance policies are up-to-date.

Many of you will move house during this month. A housewarming party around the end of the month turns out to be an event to remember. Handsome gains are seen from property purchase & sale transactions too. Any property you purchase at the end of this month promises to be lucky for the family. Invest the profits wisely and you will make further gains in the near future. Purchase of a new luxury car is in the cards. Yes – it comes with all the latest gizmos you so covet.

AQUARIUS March 2015

Early march carries with it the recipe for a steamy love affair. You can't seem to hide it. You exude an aura of sensuous charm. You are ogled by the opposite sex at the workplace and even among your circle

of friends. Your partner gives you unusual compliments on your looks. Celebrate this luscious phase. Wear those sexy outfits you bought last month. If you haven't done so already, it's time to read the Kamasutra. Enjoy the sexual sessions with your partner with unusual erotic positions. Go completely wild with lovemaking. Avoid important financial and left-brain decisions for now. Your thought process is more heart than head centric at this time.

Be wary of exhibiting an aggressive attitude around March 17th. Share your thoughts diplomatically and you will get your way. Any pressure or lack of courtesy in the workplace or at home threatens to diminish your image in the eyes of others. Listen carefully to what a partner has to say. Don't overreact or you will end up in a stalemate. One of your children may be howling for attention. Be patient and sweet with the little one. Try and take kids out for an excursion and create some bonding sessions. You will cherish these memorable moments later on when the kids are grown and gone.

Last 10 days of March put you in the spotlight everywhere you go. You display some creative skills and dish up a yummy desert or a sizzling main dish at a dinner party. Guests go mad praising your culinary skills. Everyone, including your partner, feels you could give a Five Star Hotel Chef some stiff competition. Friends may offer you financial help to start a catering business. You apply your newly acquired Feng Shui principles to a friend's house and end up rearranging the furniture for luck and good fortune to enter and stay there. The house radiates positive energy and everyone comments on it. At work, you make your presence felt with an extra dollop of innovation & dash. You are inventive and come up with some winning ideas that earn you accolades from the management. This achievement alone will make quite a few heads turn. Predictably, some colleagues will be jealous. But so be it. This is your time in the sunshine. Lady Luck is in your camp now.

AQUARIUS April 2015

April rings a few alarm bells. The focus will be on health issues, loans and disputes. Get your annual medical checkups if you haven't had time during the last 6 months. Some of you are likely to develop bone or joint-related ailments. Aches and pains in knees and back are likely to surface early this month. Osteopaths will notice an increase in Aquarians patients visiting them in April. Be conscious of your posture at your workstation. Do key exercises every hour. Take a small walk or assume a few yoga positions. Muscle cramps and backaches are often painful byproducts of faulty sitting habits. Observe whether your furniture is ergonomically designed or not. If not, make an effort to find a more work-friendly office chair and position it to the proper height.

If you are still planning to buy that property you and your partner saw some time back, this is a good time to apply for loans to acquire it. Need a personal loan? Banks will be more than willing to oblige. Need to borrow some cash? You will be surprised. This month even strangers will want to help you with money. And you will be able to return it on time as well. But, caution!! The reverse will not be true. Stay away from that dear friend who needs a bailout. Avoid phone calls from him/her. Feign being out of touch in China for next 2 months. Make any excuse. But don't extend a single loan. Ignore this advice and you will regret it. No doubt about it. You will have a hard time retrieving your hard-earned cash. Struggles ensue. A close relationship could be destroyed in this debacle.

Be careful. Don't step on toes at your workplace after 19th April. A whispered snide remark or sarcastic mutter can blow up into a controversy. Even when you are rubbed the wrong way, remain polite. Your partner may be snappy at times now. They are reacting emotionally to a perfectly logical situation. Reasoning with them will not change anything. Remain cool or respond quietly with a warm smile. Only diplomacy and tact can carry you through a choppy rest of this month.

AQUARIUS May 2015

Your partner's schedules have been conflicting with yours for quite some time. However, a magical planetary alignment this month sets things to rights. Your work deadlines, business meetings and travel will not disrupt your love life. Schedules align perfectly so the first two weeks of May prove to be a surprise treat. You end up spending a lot of quality time with each other talking things through. Both of you weave sunny dreams of a future of togetherness. Those who are already married will participate in an entertaining event which draws you together. Evenings of heightened passion are around the corner. Friends & acquaintances notice the contented glow on your face.

Your existing business partnership is sailing along smoothly. But some fresh offers of partnership appear out of nowhere during the middle of the month. Through it all, relationships with existing business partners will remain steady. A thrilling landmark improvement in the business will be a cause of celebration. The third week may entail lots of socializing, houseguests, visitors, even business lunches and project launches. This trend may well continue for some time so be sure to get enough rest in order to carry on with your usual panache and style.

Mercury goes retrograde on May 19th. The period may cause problems related to transportation and communication – aspects ruled by Mercury. Health procedures and surgeries can be postponed to a later date once Mercury is direct. You don't want any botch-ups when even the tiniest pinky finger is being operated on. At this time, even the best of your plans as well as electronic items and love affairs can go haywire. Don't sign any partnership deals during the rest of this month. Go over all documents with a fine toothcomb. Important decisions are best postponed. Many will be delayed anyway. Mercury retrograde is perverse like that.

AQUARIUS June 2015

Mercury goes direct on the 11th of this month. Any deals and documents that need your ratification can be signed after this. The mess-ups in emails and other communications and the mechanical faults in appliances should get resolved now. You are entering the accident-prone time zone for your sign this year. This means get ready for cuts, slip-ups, and bruises and in some instances - broken bones. Be extra careful while driving and crossing streets around pedestrian areas. Do not (God forbid!) Compose, send or receive text messages while driving. You can always answer those calls later once you reach your destination. In this same spirit of caution, shortcutting through dark alleys at night is a no-no. Not only are you yourself accident prone, but also even youngsters may get hurt. Accidents happen all the time during this phase - anywhere and anytime. Do make extra efforts to ensure that there are no sharp objects, bottles of pills or toxic domestic cleaning products floating around with reach of toddlers.

Around the 20th, you are likely to make the sudden discovery of an object of value. The item may be lodged inside some desk you haven't opened in years or inside some disused wardrobe. You will be overjoyed at this find. You will not have been the original owner of the item. And there may be no way to find out who it belonged to in the first place. Finders keepers? Yes. But wait!! There is more good news. A small stream of income that you had been trying to develop suddenly gives sumptuous profits. Save the money for a rainy day. Take a small portion and reinvest it in your home business. When the next flow of profits comes, you can buy yourself or your partner a spiffy gift.

Insurance will also come into focus during the last ten days of this month. Maybe the premium is due or an insurance policy matures this month end. Death of an elderly relative & issues related to wills and legacies are seen. You are likely to inherit from or be given some property by parents in the months to come. You may be informed about it now. Also a property you inherited or came to own earlier may come up for tax re-evaluation.

AQUARIUS July 2015

You start developing a heightened sense of curiosity about exotic cultures and new adventures in July. You will be tempted leap into a tempting new void. The planets are aligned to pack you off to a long distance journey early this month. How about a jaunt to a place you have never been? Maybe a new country with a local language you are unfamiliar with. New sights, new sounds, new exotic foods, unknown language – exciting new everything!!! Please don't forget to carry a language dictionary or get a translation app for your phone. This adventure trip has a strong element of learning within it. You may rediscover a passion or a new topic of study may attract you during this overseas trip. Once you return you will immerse yourself fully into your newfound area of interest. Carry home some small, meaningful souvenirs and gifts. Luckily, there won't be any problems with travel documents - no misplaced tickets, passports, ID cards - and best of all - no missing baggage. Be wary of one thing. There are rip-off con artists whose bread and butter is made by swindling tourists. Watch your back!

Home from the exciting trip, you plunge headlong into office work. An important project is likely to be delegated to you. Say yes to it. The role has an element of authority and supervision. Yes, the colleagues at the same level as yours are going to grumble and give you dirty looks when you try to direct & supervise them. And the promotion means ignoring the office clock in the evenings for a few weeks. But proving your conscientious work ethic at this time will pay rich dividends later.

You are likely to attend an event around July 24th at the behest of someone whom you admire and respect greatly. Sound guidance from him/her has helped you survive some tricky situations you have faced in the past. Could also be that this person was your teacher for some fascinating classes you took at university. And the two of you just “clicked”. You were, of course, the brightest student in the class. You might be asked to co-teach or co-host a workshop or seminar with this admirable person.

AQUARIUS August 2015

The upward swing continues into the early part of this month. All the P's: praise, promotion, perks, personal benefits, prestige – in some form or the other – will be in attendance. And to round off the feast is the P of Profession. Your boss or the powers-that-be are also pleased with you and your work. The project that you were assigned last month is on a roll. It could potentially catapult you into the big leagues. You are likely to be one of the contenders for the top seat in your department. Just a word of caution here – be careful of showing any willfulness or excessive determination to execute your own ideas. Be wary of rebellion and resentment from colleagues. No matter how great your own performance, it's always wise to consult others. The best plans and ideas improve with discussion. And remember - if ever you should slide back down, the people you see on your way to the top will meet you again. So do not underestimate a continuing need for your colleagues' support. Beware the temptation to develop a superior attitude.

A hectic & feverish work pace builds up towards the middle of this month. You are making superhuman efforts in your job. It may nonetheless be time to slow down. You may have bitten off more than you can chew which can create dangerous stress. Your partner will also crave your attention. You may feel duty bound to honor some important familial commitments as well. Prioritize tasks & synchronize your schedule with those who surround you to avoid being overwhelmed.

Last week of August is all about home, family & real estate issues. Expect correspondence and endless discussions about family matters. Spending time with close family is important now, and so is an awareness of personal space. A confrontation of one sort or another is likely to occur with your partner. It should not be too serious as long as you remind yourself that there is no right or wrong way. There are merely different approaches and viewpoints. In case you are male, do remember one thing – an angry girlfriend/wife is always correct. If you are female, try and keep in mind that men are not too swift at expressing their needs and emotions. Men need time to untangle their ideas from their emotions.

AQUARIUS September 2015

At this time, the planets are announcing your best time of the year. Early this month, a creative pursuit you have been dabbling in for some time could suddenly turn into a money-making venture. Or a stream of income you have been trying to develop suddenly takes a leap in profits. Better reputation and solid financial gains are indicated. Money will flow into your coffers through various avenues. A good bank balance makes you feel secure and safer. Many Aquarians get promoted out of turn or receive special appreciation from senior management. Amazingly, you don't even have to lift a finger for it. All your earlier efforts will be rewarded this month. Now that you find yourself with more disposable income, do splurge a bit for friends, loved ones and even for yourself. Perhaps an old friend helped you through some difficult times earlier. Now is your chance to show how much you appreciate his/her support. Those of you who have been job hunting may be offered employment from the 11th to 17th Sept. In fact, for those of you who are looking for new job offers, this is the time to take risks. Jump right in. These opportunities won't be available a few weeks from now.

Mercury goes retrograde from Sept 17th till October 9. Any job offer letters you sign now may need some amendments later on. This is not a good time to form an inextricable alliance or sign contracts. From the commencement of this phase through its conclusion on Oct 9th you will no doubt experience a few hassles. This time around, Mercury retrograde may prove especially troublesome in matters pertaining to food, cleaning or organizing.

The phase after Sept 21st is focused on entertaining houseguests, friends, visitors, business lunches and general socializing. Overall, you have the feeling that now you are finally where you wanted to be in life. A sense of harmony, peace and contentment prevails. You spend time with loved ones. A new friendship that forms now will transform into a long lasting relationship. You will also gain financially in the future through this person. So tighten this relationship and take the responsibility of true friendship seriously.

AQUARIUS October 2015

Mercury retrograde ends on 9th October. Till then, maintain patience with communications. Your e-mail may have ended up in the receiver's spam box. If someone does not reply to an e-mail, a friendly follow-up message may be in order. Be especially careful that you don't hit "reply all" on any private messages this month. Remember to keep backup copies all of your work so you don't lose any critical documents. This is not the right period to be taking up any major projects, making a long-term commitment or signing a contract. Wait till October 10 to finalize deals.

A lot of impulsive shopping is in the cards from the 12th to the 24th October. You feel richer than usual and are likely to indulge in personal luxuries – Thai massages, expensive dinners and designer outfits. The kids are after you to buy them those expensive video games. It's difficult to say no. That magnificent tall brass statue of Buddha looks indispensable. You just have to have it for the living room. The swanky new dessert café down the road has received fabulous reviews. Friends are raving about it. Sure. Now just take a quick look at the bank and credit card balances as well. Shocked out of your wits? You probably think the bank has made some wrong entries. Unfortunately, your bank statement is correct. Your expenses are overshooting your income this month. At this rate you won't have anything left to spend for Christmas holidays. Keep a watchful eye on squandering & curtail unnecessary expenses. Cut back on take-out coffee and 3 star restaurant lunches. Bring your own from home. Cancel any unnecessary subscriptions. No more shopping online. Pay off your credit card debt as fast as you possibly can.

Concern for a family member weighs heavily on you around the 23rd. One of your parents may be going through a sticky health or disturbing domestic tangle. The issue seems very complicated. No resolution in sight in the near future. Try to accept what is happening, comfort them where you can and offer your

loving assistance.

AQUARIUS November 2015

Early November finds you in a very positive frame of mind. This hopeful spirit creates a kind of affirmative psychodynamic within. You find yourself alert, active and more vital – ready to take on the whole world. You are singing snatches of old songs in the shower and out. Your confidence & charisma reach new peaks. Nothing seems to faze you now. Social standing will also be at an all time high. Avoid overconfidence. Think about moderation in all your pursuits. Around 9 Nov an aggressive situation may suddenly erupt at the workplace. If handled properly, you can defuse it. Otherwise it could snowball into a major showdown with a colleague. The 2nd week is especially good for speculation in all forms. Try your luck at the lottery. A trusted friend who is richer than they were last year is obviously successful in trading. If you ask nicely, they may give you a few tips. Follow his / her advice and invest in a few stocks.

Odd fears & negative thoughts suddenly descend on you around the 17th to the 20th Nov. Something from the past haunts you. It may be a failed affair. Or it's a dream that never quite got off the drawing board. It could also be a wrong that you committed long ago that still needs to be rectified. Your thoughts play about as if on a stuck on an old gramophone record. You also become aware of stagnation in your life. Mental ruts, patterns, stuck people & a wide assortment of other stagnant things bother you. Visit the yoga school in your area. Ask them to teach you some deep breathing exercises. Go see a close friend you haven't met in a while. Watch a comedy movie with your partner. Splurge at the beauty or massage parlor. Get out and Do something. Don't stay home alone and ponder the past. Discuss your fears & insecurities with someone you trust. With more social interaction and sharing of information with others, any lingering ghosts will soon dissipate on their own.

Your messy mental phase has dampened your spirits. But a meeting with someone new around 22nd or 23rd will help to put your life back on track. He/she will guide you how to improve your physical, emotional, mental & spiritual wellbeing. This is a good time to take some advice or undergo some holistic treatment / therapy. Try pranic energy healing, hypnosis or past life regression. Take a break from your routine to recharge your batteries.

AQUARIUS December 2015

This is going to be a “giving” month for you in the true spirit of the holiday season. A distant relative or an acquaintance gets in touch with you around the 7th of this month. A major misfortune may have struck their family. They may need monetary or other assistance to tide them over the rough patch. Seize this opportunity to do a good deed. Offer whatever help you can. And do not expect the money or favor to be returned for a long time. You might also help locate social service organizations which offer some assistance to them. Around the same time, you may have to entertain a young guest in distress who turns up at the door unexpectedly one morning. This “guest” could be the runaway child of an estranged relative or casual friend. It's disturbing. Before calling child protection services, have an in-depth chat with the kid. Perhaps he or she is confused and needs your understanding and accommodation for a few days. Be a kind Samaritan and provide food & shelter for as long as needed. Then you can think about sending him or her home to face the music. (Pssst. Call the parents to reassure them.) The stars foretell participation in a Charity fundraiser event at the workplace. The event will leave a deep impression on you. Whether you celebrate Christmas conventionally or not is immaterial. You will already have attracted ample blessings to last you for a good while.

3rd week of this month shows that you may suffer from dental or gum problems. You want a quick fix to it but there isn't one. Do not procrastinate. Postponing an appointment with your dentist now can snowball into serious health issues later. Unhealthy gums are known to have some queer correlation with heart

problems. Get a thorough plaque cleaning done after the check up for cavities / gum infections. A simple flossing & brushing twice a day can save you from severe dental problems later on.

AQUARIUS January 2016

Another Mercury retrograde falls between Jan 5th and Jan 25th of this month. The month shows intermittent communication issues & stress related to your sweetheart or your offspring. Your partner may misplace some important papers related to a will or inheritance around 8th Jan. You see red & stage a heated argument with them. One of your older kids could scratch a fender while parking or even put a dent in your vehicle. Your phone malfunctions & starts dialing people on its own. Be careful before you blame others around 14th. Do not engage in stressful conversations or lock horns with anyone. A caustic remark you make casually about a sibling or a relative will backfire. They will retort and give you a very large and upsetting piece of their mind. You quail and feel terrible. Apologies cost nothing. And they work.

Your partner really could do with your company & support this month. He/she is likely to experience a bereavement or lose an important friend around 20th Jan. This friend may perish from some chronic malady or they may be moving far away to another country. Offer as much solace as you can to your partner during this time of emotional distress. Hold him/her close to you and reminisce about some positive events concerning the person they have lost. Distractions sometimes help. Go to the movies or theatre together. Choose life-enhancing films or plays to see. Boost morale.

A newly launched project at the workplace is likely to go from strength to strength now. The remainder of the month after 10th Jan is focused on your involvement in it. Relationships within your team should be harmonious & friendly. You do, however, have to factor in other people's feelings and goals before making any decisions now. Be open and direct about your own objectives. Honor their opinions.

PISCES

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR PISCES 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: "**retrograde**".

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2015 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP FOR PISCES

Dreamy Pisces,

2015 marks a banner year in your life. Sheep people love Piscean people. You may have to face some reversals and will undergo many changes in the coming 12 months. But you are flexible by nature. Are you ready for a change of venue or a change of career? Kick back and welcome the new: adapt, reshape, restyle yourself. If you want harmony, when you are pushed or beckoned, go with the flow. If you try to swim against the current, you will only meet with obstacles and ultimately - disappointment. Romance and heavy passion are also in the equation for 2015. You will either meet someone new whose lust matches your own or you will rekindle the fire under your current union.

Enforced modifications in your career goals will cause inner tension. Dissension among co-workers and run-ins with bosses may give you chronic indigestion. Don't change jobs. Change your attitude. A year of intermittent and hot romance is approaching. Enjoy it. But don't make any long-term promises you can't keep. Your financial picture for 2015 is favorable. You may not get rich. But you won't starve either. Pisces health? Adequate so long as you attend to the necessities: diet, meditation, exercise and ample time for dreaming. Paying more attention to creative pursuits will give you an edge in the Sheep Year. The Sheep admires your expressive, artsy side and will invigorate any and all of your innovative or artistic endeavors. sw PISCES January 2015

In January, you will go through some kind of spiritual reawakening. You may find yourself re-connecting with the religious tradition in which you were raised. Or you may start to study another form of spirituality. Perhaps you begin meditating. If you already meditate, you may find that you attain a new level in your practice. At any rate, 2015 starts with a major shift for you. It is, however, a change few people perceive right away. With time, others will be surprised and pleased at how you seem to have come out of your shell. You will be invited more interesting places by the kind of enthusiastic people you

have always sought to surround yourself with.

This invisible inner change gives you a deeper sense of confidence. You feel more resistant to tension. When your co-workers display their most malignant behavior, you remain unperturbed. When your partner feels anxious or testy, you are able to remain loving and calm. You feel as if you have a new secret identity: Buffy the Stress Slayer.

You finally receive a long-overdue reward for that pressure cooker project of last summer. A promotion seems to be in the wings. You and your partner might make plans to participate in a volunteer vacation later in 2015. You like the idea of visiting a new place and helping the people who live there. You may also decide to adopt a pet from a local shelter. Your heart may be stolen by a sweet, affectionate three-legged dog or an orphaned tabby cat who likes to sleep at your feet all night.

Think about taking up a musical instrument this year. What instrumental sounds move or inspire you? Consider what types of musicians you would like to play with—do you picture yourself improvising with jazz musicians? Jamming with hopeful rock stars? Joining in a drum circle? Also find out what kind of musical instruction is available in your area. Perhaps that interesting looking man you see sometimes at the corner store is a great guitar teacher. A deep involvement in music will support the other changes in your life and bring you more and more self-confidence.

PISCES February 2015

The month begins with a torrent of positive energy flowing down from the heavens – when I say torrent – I mean that by the end of it, your eyeballs will still be twirling. Most of you will be on cloud nine – positive thoughts, vibrant colors, music in the air et-al. Not only will the surroundings be cheerful, relationships will start looking up as well. The first 10 days will have you socializing with friends and acquaintances over coffees and dinners. Use more yellow in clothing. Add some amber or ochre tints to your surroundings. Take full advantage of this beautiful phase.

From 11th to 21st February –your focus will be mixed – on payment of those overdue bills and planning for that vacation that you need to take with friends or for that item of luxury you have been eyeing for so long. Your planning is solid and you will achieve in the future what you plan for now. So, go for it!!

The last part of the month may show up complete with bathroom plumbing problems in your home. Not to worry. The positive effect of the earlier few days in this month will ensure this household glitch doesn't dampen your spirit. Why not splurge? Spend the money and buy those fancy new bathroom fittings you have been contemplating? You have been vowing to change them now for a long time. Besides, that small bathroom leak upstairs is irritating the downstairs neighbor. I know plumbers don't come cheap. But if you do your utmost to put things to rights, the neighbors won't bother you again for quite some time.

PISCES March 2015

Someone you have already met and who caused you to skip a heartbeat or two enters your life again. Hold your horses. Please. I didn't mean to hint at a romance. This encounter could indeed turn out to be nothing more than a positive platonic relationship. Look for a warm connectivity first. The relationship will build up slowly to a crackling chemistry. Don't expect any love commitments immediately. Take it slow. The individual in question will be able to help you unravel any confused thoughts you are burdened with on the subject of love. He or she will help you exit the labyrinthine emotional situation you find yourself in now. Latch on to this person. Later this friendship may even turn into an understanding love cum lifelong friendship. But for moment, why not be satisfied to just enjoy the build-up of happy vibes you are both feeling?

From the 16th to the 20th of March, your boss will be feeling grouchy and need extra buttering up from

your end. I know some of you Pisceans will wonder – “Oh God, why did take this job?” But be patient. Things will inch back into place. A colleague at your workplace will also guide you. The situation will suddenly change around the 21st or 22nd when your boss stops being so crotchety.

A portion of the last 10 days of March will be occupied by activities concerning your own, neighbors’ or relatives’ kids. Try and help them with a project or take them out for an educational and entertaining picnic. Give them gentle advice about a concern or problem they’re having. Or sort out a small squabble they started while playing. Your gentle, compassionate Piscean nature makes getting along little ones easy for you - and for them.

PISCES April 2015

Get ready for a challenging new assignment that comes your way at work in early April. This gig will require longer hours, multiple meetings & more business travel. But if properly planned and executed, the opportunity will add a quite a few feathers to your cap. Financial rewards are also visible down the line. It will be prudent to re-organize and shift a few household responsibilities to your partner. To make it easier for everyone concerned to manage though this hectic time, why not hire household help for childcare, dog walking, laundry and other necessary chores? The soon-to-materialize upgrade in salary will allow for you to find someone reliable with excellent references.

Around the middle of the month, your partner’s health will need attention. Could be blood pressure problems or stress - the usual “perks” that come with most well paying jobs nowadays. Ask him/her to get checkups from specialists. It doesn’t look serious beyond the nervous tension aspect. A change of diet may be needed. Why not support your partner with the new, healthy diet. Meanwhile you might some flab yourself. It’s more fun to diet together - see who loses the most and reward each other for good behavior.

Is the extra money burning a hole in your wallet or purse? I fear you might go on a shopping spree in the 4th week of April. Before you whip out your MasterCard or Visa and scrap your monthly household budget to own that fabulous one-of –a-kind garment you can’t live without, talk to a wise friend. Get a second opinion. Look around. Try to find something similar at a lower price. Choose to ignore this advice and you may find yourself playing the shell game with the utility companies next month.

PISCES May 2015

A close relative or friend who is also a gossip monger creates trouble at a social get together early this month. The gossip may focus on your fashion sense which, for their taste, doesn’t rely enough on labels. These nosy people don’t seem to be able to bear that you can look better in resurrected thrift store duds than they do in expensive designer wear. You don’t need to plot ways to get even with the gossips. Just don’t retaliate. Don’t pick up the bait. Maintain your own inner peace. Like the wise ant, pick up the sugar and leave the sand behind. Let them hang themselves with their gossiping tongues. Your genuine well-wishers won’t take long to recognize them as troublemakers and advise you to ditch them. You can feel confident leaving the busybodies behind. Your true friends will always be there to support you.

The middle of May will find you in a difficult- to- dispel black mood. Your partner and friends will remark on how gloomy you seem. Part of the bad humor problem may stem from lack of sleep. Sleep deprivation affects one’s state of mind deeply. Even if you get eight hours of snooze-time regularly, the effects of extra stress can send you into a funk. Try going to bed earlier at night. Prepare for bed well ahead of settling down. Go for that early morning swim. For Pisces, there is nothing as therapeutic and refreshing as water.

With the upcoming Mercury retrograde beginning on May 19th, phones, faxes and email technologies you use may be temperamental - with connections fading away at inopportune moments. Journeying from home to work or vice versa may involve unexpected difficulties. Keep all contracts on hold and delay signing

important documents till after June 10th. Important business plans can be made now. But not finalized. If you do sign any legal papers during this phase, they may need amendments later. They could even backfire. Do backup your hard drive and ensure that your anti virus is up and running.

PISCES June 2015

Mercury retrograde continues till the 9th of June. This retrograde not only affects you. But it influences your partner as well. I know how difficult it is to try and get along when your sweetheart is in a crabby mood. A few tender words of affection go a long way. Find out discreetly if there is anything you can help them with. This accomplished, remember that Mercury retro does have its positive side. You can indeed negotiate, initiate and make plans for the future with reckless abandon. But whatever you do, don't commit to marriage or sign up for anything else you can't wriggle out of easily. Till 9th June, delays and glitches are the norm rather than the exception.

13th June to 22nd June will be dreamy, head-in-the cloud days. Concentration and focus on any task will seem impossible. Your partner and friends will also notice you are inattentive and daydreaming during conversations and may even attempt to snap you out of it. It's odd. Whether cooking, driving or standing in the queue at the supermarket, you indulge in fantasy. Some of these fantasies will be career and wealth-related which makes them distracting - but fun. However, if you find yourself haunted by memories of sorrow, regrets or mistakes you made, you really need to snap back into the present. Remorse is not a sentiment you want to cultivate.

A social event related to a good cause will be the highlight after June 22nd. Perhaps you participate in a fund raising activity. You may also be asked to spend time with a lonely elderly person who needs emotional support. Don't forget to carry a small gift when you visit this person. Little things means a lot to a person afflicted by age and solitude. You can have long, cozy conversations over mugs of coffee or tea and relive happy times you both knew in the past. Why not review some old photos and share a laugh or two. Or... watch a funny movie together. Make this person happier and your own mood will lighten up.

PISCES July 2015

The first week of July is a time of change and adjustment – in your relationships, lifestyle and at even your image. This phase is much more than a mere shift of mood. Prospects on the work front look sunny and the changes you effect will be positive. Do, however, try not to attract too much attention. Steer clear of gossipy conversations - especially with those who have joined recently. Newbies frequently attempt to get themselves accepted as part of the group by picking up on stray rumors lying about. Watch out for these over zealous types. They love to resuscitate stale scuttlebutt.

11th July and two weeks thereafter will be a good period for those of you who are into public speaking, law, publishing, singing and theatre. You absorb the limelight effortlessly. This is your time for achievement and recognition. Your natural Piscean creativity shines in all its splendor. You will be appreciated by someone of eminence and status who could open up many new connections to powerful people from all social strata. One of your (or somebody else's) children will need emergency medical attention and care. Make haste to find the proper remedies.

After 23rd July, ring up a favorite property agent and talk to them about your plans to buy a new, bigger house. It is only now that any plans to move house will finally work out. You are also likely to decide to renovate your office during this time. Do consult a Feng Shui expert. Enhance the beneficial energies. Short distance travel is almost certain now. Last week of July will bring a sudden influx of funds from an unexpected source. And surprise! There may be an addition to the family circle. Also a friend to whom you had loaned money in his time of severe financial distress long ago turns up suddenly and returns the amount ...plus interest.

PISCES August 2015

Be extra careful in financial dealings and maintain your accounts properly during August (especially around 6th and 7th.) The changes you made last month have been noticed by friends and foes alike. Most people around you can't tolerate the fact that you are sitting so firmly in the saddle. They may plot to bring you down and even circulate more fabrications about you. Be on your guard. Don't trust that friendly colleague with any secrets or official information you are privy to. Someone could try to steal access to your private information online. Make sure you keep your passwords updated and your anti-virus in place. Don't open any email with attachment that looks suspicious. Never click on links from anonymous sources.

By mid-august another phase of closeness, bonding and affection begins for you. If you are single, you might find yourself irresistibly drawn to an acquaintance. Why not send out a few friendly messages? Then check out how positive (or not) the response is from the other end. During this period you will come to realize the value of solid, loyal relationships. It is also time for travel. Equip yourself with a spirit of adventure. New sports, interests, work options, projects and even leisure activities encourage you to enjoy yourself. Fishing trips? Visits to theme parks and amusing jaunts to the seaside are but some of the activities you might want to engage in.

The 2nd half of August is very interesting because, despite the love factor in your life, there is a silent spiritual awakening creeping slowly in. This may come from a book you read recently or have emerged after talking to someone elderly in the family. You may feel like reconnecting with your former spiritual tradition. Or you may want to explore books on eastern mysticism and philosophy. Could even be that you want to find out how to meditate. For those who are already into some form of meditation - there are deep spiritual insights in store for you. In any case, most of you will grow spiritually during this two-week phase.

PISCES September 2015

Pop those energy tablets your doctor recommended, You are going to need extra fuel. Early September is full of hurried activity. You will be running around like a headless chicken - even at weekends. Reasons will be many - office project deadlines, writing the last chapter of that long overdue novel, preparing for examinations for the project management course you enrolled for. Why not complete that extra work you took up to earn some quick money? To top it all off, your partner suddenly needs to leave town on a business trip for two weeks and all grocery shopping lands "splat!" on you. You run the risk of over exertion toward the middle of the month. My advice? Balance things out. Make a list of priorities and follow it to the letter.

Another phase of Mercury retrograde is waiting for you on the 17th of September and will end on October 9th. For Pisceans, Mercury rules partnerships. Well, you know the drill – avoid signing important property papers and partnership contracts during this phase. By partnership I mean business as well as life partnerships. Phone calls are missed, an important email lands in your junk email box, payments get delayed and confusions occur without any ill intention on your part. That job offer you were so sure to get could be put on hold for three weeks. Reason? One of the partners is away on a long vacation in Japan and suddenly announces that he wants to meet you personally before hiring you. That lucrative order that you received a week back is cancelled by the customer for no apparent reason. And you had already begun to work on it. In a nutshell – you could face multiple headaches and tensions during this Mercury retrograde. Malfunction of electronic equipment that you purchase during this phase will trip you up too. Better hold off on the major purchases for the time being.

While this month so far has been tough on you, your partner realizes it. The last five days of September

will be filled with romantic sentiment, poems, gifts and candlelit dinners with your loved one. Your heart is so filled with love that you decide to treat him/her to a sizzling, ecstatic sexual union.

PISCES October 2015

The thorny Mercury retrograde phase ends on Oct 9th. Previously blocked funds and information suddenly pour in. A legal matter is settled and pays a hefty amount you were not expecting. A delayed message of some importance only reaches you now. But don't worry. You may still be able to take action before it's too late. Now you can go ahead with any official or property documents that need your signature. Those of you who were waiting for green light letters will get them now. Business will be profitable this month and you will finally receive those missing orders you were expecting. Someone approaches you with a new business proposal or an offer of employment Oct 12th to 16th. Give this offer serious consideration. Discuss it with your partner and trusted friends. Do not refuse it out of hand.

You are likely to be obliged to cancel a party or another jolly event during the period Oct 16th to 20th. A family member may need to be rushed to the hospital. There's also the possibility of an injury to a family member at home. Take extra precaution with kids. In case of cuts or bruises, give the person Bach flower rescue remedy drops which will help them heal faster.

Focus is on friends and love during the latter part of October. A pal may confide she/he is cheating on a lover or spouse. Morally, you may disapprove of your friend's behavior. But deep within, you also feel somewhat envious. You had a similar opportunity last year and felt tempted but did not have the courage (or lack of same) to stray. You simply don't want to give up the security of your current relationship. Perhaps you could advise your friend to keep those peccadilloes a secret from now on. Sharing such intimate confidences is often an attempt to shed guilt. Explain that you have enough of your own guilt to deal with, without absorbing anyone else's.

PISCES November 2015

You have struck a fortunate balance with your manager so far. But early this month, the winds of change may be blowing. Either it's you who is facing a change of department / role or else your current boss is being transferred. The new person looks sweet, but they may turn out to be both a workaholic and a tough disciplinarian. He/she wanted those reports on his desk yesterday. And the word "weekend" doesn't mean "time to relax". It means there's no reason you can't work from home. Willy nilly, they expect you to finish the job and deliver it by Monday. Be prepared to listen to lectures on the merits of hard work and how people who toiled over the weekends made it to the top. If you don't like the new music, start looking for a job change. Contact some of those connections you made earlier this year. Send your resume and a well-composed cover letter to a few significant companies whose reputations you respect.

Some expenses related to repair or renovations are coming up around middle of this month. Six-legged creepy guests may need to be removed by fumigation. The roof may need replacing. You may want to modernize the kitchen or replace out-dated bathroom tiles. Perhaps you feel all this remodeling and repair is not absolutely essential. But the stars indicate that it's the right time to upgrade, renovate or refresh your surroundings. No need to push the boat out and borrow money for the work. Function within your budget. Get several estimates and make sure the person you hire comes highly recommended.

Remember that not-so-friendly neighbor who had a complaint about you a few months ago? All they wanted is that you acknowledge their concern. Now is the right time to correct any misunderstanding and build a better relationship. Invite them for tea or dinner. Make light, pleasant conversation. Avoid controversial topics. The unfriendly neighbor will soften. In future, whenever you need their help, they will be there to help out. Still trying to quell the urge to have yourself a fling? Not to worry. This too shall pass.

PISCES December 2015

The first ten days of December can be summed up in just two words – love & luck. Thanks to your cheerful, enthusiastic persona and charm, all manner of people will seek your company. You feel special, wanted and cherished. And that's a feeling that certainly warms the cockles. Money matters involving raising capital and engaging in commerce are favored. In fact, your stock investments are likely to give you a nice profit to spend during the holidays. December 2015 is also a favorable time to discuss shared plans and future goals with interested parties. Now's the time to think big.

Guard against all kinds of confrontations at work around at the middle of December. A colleague might decide to play spoilsport. Don't take changes in plans or viewpoints too seriously for the next few days. Don't react or get involved in any mudslinging. Yes, we know that he/she started it. But come on. It's the Christmas season. Give in and compromise. Placate team members who may not agree with you. Don't nigger. Learn to see the big picture. Next year will bring a couple of prestigious projects your way. You'll see. You will be in the limelight.

You are likely to take a break away from the customary visits to in-laws and parents this Christmas. You may go stay with some old friends you haven't seen in years. Or you decide to spend some quality time with your kids at a beach resort. Air travel and any sojourns outside your habitual environment will run smoothly and be hassle free. Romance is in the air too. This is the right time to rekindle with your partner. Sort out any misgivings you have had during the year. Hold his/her hand tenderly in the night and whisper those sweet nothings we all need to hear. Kisses count. You will notice after this reawakening that your companion will be more receptive to your viewpoint - and not only between the sheets!

PISCES January 2016

This month is a harbinger of wealth and prosperity for Fish people. There is, however, a catch – Mercury will be retrograde between Jan 5th and Jan 25th. Do keep your hard drive backed up. The highlights of the month include enhanced status and prestige at the workplace. The boss finally appreciates your work and hints at a reward coming your way. The domestic atmosphere is full of light and goodwill. Expect happy news from immediate family members too. A birth in the extended family is possible. Parents feel proud of your achievements and are lavish in their praise. You are in a better frame of mind now and can throw yourself into working and networking. You are scouting for mega projects and bigger money. Dreaming big – larger than life.

After Jan 12th, there may be discussions about selling some property that you or your partner inherited. Seek advice from friends. Prefer professionals who have already been doing this type of transaction for years. Why not consult an elderly relative who could give you solid, insider information on how the real estate market works? Caution however. Due to Mercury retrograde, it is advisable to postpone decisions about contracts till Jan 25th. You stand to make a solid profit now or even a couple of months from now – whatever you decide. No matter how much you need them, resist the urge to buy fancy electronic devices during Mercury retrograde. Electronics fail all too often during these phases.

22nd Jan and beyond indicates problems for you or for your spouse with an authority figure. The situation seems to be connected with a piece of property or a vehicle. Perhaps you receive a speeding ticket. Or your significant other gets a late fee notices from the property tax authorities. If you are obliged to meet with any official representatives, maintain your dignity and stay cool. Exercise both tact and prudence. Be at your diplomatic best. Respect and aplomb. The officer or functionary in questions may behave imperiously. Turn your tongue over 7 times before you utter a high-handed response. One snappy answer and you could find yourself entangled in an administrative basket of crabs.

YOUR MONTHLY FORECASTS

for

THE 12 CHINESE SIGNS

for 2015



RAT

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR RAT IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR RATS

Relentless Rat,

You Rats have had a couple of lean seasons of late. These may well have cramped your style and dulled your creativity. Fortunately, the Sheep year will have you sailing in smoother waters. At this point, money worries will finally stop dictating your every move. Finances will cease to be the most crucial issue in your life. By June, you will feel more inclined to get out of the house and show off your sparkling social skills. Attending parties and public events where your native charm can be appreciated will do you wonders. At one of these events, as soon as you stick out your whisker antennae you will pick up sexy vibes from some gorgeous creature. This new romantic interest could threaten an already stable marriage or long-term relationship. Beware. A misstep here could jeopardize the steady, fruitful home life you so desperately need. Beg off politely. Tempting as it may be, resist the urge for a quick fling.

The Sheep year will smile on a multitude of fortunes and offer you renewed peace of mind. So don't blow it. Towards the end of the year, you may have some spare change that is begging to be invested. Before you commit to anything, seek the advice of someone with more experience than you in this area. Be it real estate or diamond mines, if you are new to the field, heed the counsel of an older, wiser—and richer—cohort. sw

RAT January 2015

Your star is on the rise again. That brief flurry of local media attention you experienced last year starts again around the 7th of January. Some of the accolades you earn now are a result of the new connections you made through that charity project last year. After the learning experiences of last year's ups and

downs, you feel more ready to step into the public eye. There are definite signs your income will be rising throughout 2015. You feel more secure in your relationship with your partner as well. The two of you may contemplate buying a new property together. Looks as though you will definitely move house. Could be you will purchase a second home or a cottage as a weekend getaway. You will enjoy the search for this property at weekends during the months to come.

Around the 15th, you get some iffy news about your partner or a close relative's health. He or she may be diagnosed with a chronic condition. The doctors will discuss the a few different approaches and medications. They will explain the pros and cons of different ways of coping with this health challenge. Suddenly, the two of you will be awash in medical literature as you learn the terminology and treatment options of this previously unfamiliar condition. Your partner may find the new information about his/her health disorienting and even a little daunting. This could prove to be a difficult time. You will have to supply emotional support. Be patient and forbearing. It may take a few months for him or her to recover a sense of emotional equilibrium. But your relationship will benefit because you will both triumph over this medical accident.

Some kind of incident involving your car may occur at the same time as you are dealing with your partner's health concerns. No one will be hurt. But the vehicle may sustain serious damage. Perhaps some careless driver hits your car while in a parking lot. Or a thief may break a window to steal your belongings. Make sure your insurance policies are up-to-date. And don't leave anything temptingly visible inside your car when you leave it sitting in the street or open parking lot.

RAT February 2015

The Chinese New Year starts February 19. This year two amorous admirers will be clamoring to be your Valentine. The problem? Neither one of them starts your engines. But don't try telling them that. Both are convinced they hold the key to your heart. This could well become more tiresome than flattering. You are up to your eyeballs in work, as usual. You do not have time for this added drama. Your free time should be reserved for recreation. And being yanked in two different directions does not qualify. Eventually, you will have to take firm action. Talk to them both. Be kind, but resolute, in your message. Explain that you want to keep them as good friends. But not lovers.

Halfway through the month, you will rendezvous with your true love—success. You could receive a raise or even an award. People cast you admiring glances. Rivals eye you jealously. Thrilling stuff for Rats. And it is made all the more satisfying because of the hard work you put into this project. Savor the moment. In fact, take some friends out for a three star celebratory meal. You have earned it. Do not worry about the calories. You can burn them off easily enough in the coming week. Add an extra few minutes to your favorite sport or exercise routine. Or try walking to work, rather than chauffeuring yourself to the office door. Even a slight change in your routine can pay dividends beyond what you thought possible.

At the end of February, someone will sorely test your good humor. This seems related to transport. Perhaps you will encounter a taxi driver with an atrocious attitude. Or meet with a fellow commuter pitching a fit of road rage in the midst of the morning traffic. The better you control your reaction, the faster the situation will resolve itself. At home, when people start arguing, follow the same advice. Stay out of it. If you refuse to get bogged down in their petty crises, they will not ask your intervention again. By March they will have lost interest and forgotten that any dissension ever took place. On the other hand, if you do get involved in their squabbles, they might end up accusing you of starting the mess. Better to step under an awning and wait for the storm to pass.

RAT March 2015

A young friend or family member is due to move into their first home. You have offered to help out. Be

careful. You may find yourself swept up in the rush of the experience. You will be very tempted to buy lots of goodies as house warming gifts. Set aside some money for unexpected events. The adorable new digs may already have boarders—the creepy-crawly kind. Your young friend will appreciate your investment in pest control far more than a new lampshade or blender.

You may experience some minor health issues in this second week. In particular, watch out for minor tripping accidents. You have a propensity for flying around corners and taking the stairs two at a time. Slow down. Watch where you put your feet. Is that step actually the last one on the staircase? Better check again! You can easily avoid setbacks by being more cautious.

Mid-March will probably see you inundated with invitations to attend social events. I know you do not want to let any of your friends down. But you cannot say yes to everyone. Not without hiring a team of clones. If you try to please everybody, you will burn yourself out. Be completely practical. Spend some quality time with a few close loved ones. People who make your life brighter. The rest are irrelevant anyway. Especially since you have an ongoing personal problem this week that requires your attention (and sucks up more time than you would like). You may be making a few visits to the dentist or optometrist. Perhaps your new glasses are pinching your nose. Or a recent dental filling has a painful rough spot. See that those itches get properly scratched by professionals.

The month ends on a financial high note. Money is coming your way through an unexpected avenue. This might entail a small inheritance or a bonus at work. Someone is thanking you for advice or hands-on help balancing their checkbook. Invest your gains in something that will grow in value. A piece of art, perhaps? Trust that sensitive nose of yours to select the right diamond in the rough.

The arts appeal to you this week. Use them to soothe your anxious soul. Make a point of attending opera or theater. If spectacles are not available, create your own event at home. Invite some friends over and watch a movie classic or show. Make the evening special and elegant. Serve wine and canapés rather than beer and popcorn.

RAT April 2015

Early in April, an older woman needs your help. This person played a maternal, wise-woman role in your life. She needs to get her affairs in order. She may turn to you. Investigate the situation carefully. Something is not as it seems. Has she been misdiagnosed? Are there inconsistencies with her finances? Is money leaving her accounts mysteriously? Dig a little deeper. Investigation will trigger a major discovery. Your lady friend is, in fact, in perfect fettle. False alarm.

Mid-month, there may be a hitch in your transportation plans. Perhaps your car must go in for repairs. Or the damn thing won't start. If you sprained your ankle tripping on those stairs in March, you've got a problem. You have an important meeting and no way to get there. Drag out the phone book and ask for help. There has to be someone who owes you a favor. Or you could bribe a pal with the lure of a fancy meal. It is vital that you attend this meeting. Your future hinges on it. There is a person at this event who has a piece of information that can advance your career. It may relate to a promotion or a job offer at another company. They may not tip their hand outright. But the connection you make will eventually lead down that path. One way or the other, get there on time.

As April comes to a close, your partner is in a hot and lusty mood. In contrast, you feel tepid. He or she is spreading rose petals on the bed. But all you want to do is lie on them and snore until dawn. You are clearly not on the same page. Before this leads to a blow-up, try a few romantic compromises. Cuddle on the couch while you watch TV. Go for a walk. Take time to talk and actually listen to each other. Nurture the bonds that drew you together in the first place. Why not take a weekend away to relax? That would be a little sexier than spending two days weeding the garden, cleaning the house and fixing the leaking bath

tap! RELAX. As in, do pointless, unproductive things that will help you recoup your energy and stimulate your libido.

RAT May 2015

The first week of May has you busy packing snacks for a road trip. Music is involved. Perhaps you are off to an outdoor music event. Or maybe someone close to you has an audition. In this case, you are the designated moral support.

Whoever it is you are supporting, this will be a day that leaves happy memories. You might want to incorporate some celebratory bubbly into the festivities. There will be more joyful news later on in the week. Someone in the family is finally having a baby! It was a hard-fought for pregnancy.

Mercury goes Retrograde on the 18th. Expect verbal communications to grind to a standstill. At the same time, other forms of contact may pick up pace. Vivid dreams populate your slumber. And all of a sudden, you may find yourself developing strange new phobias. What message is your mind sending you? Your fear of heights may render you unable to enter your employer's top-floor office. Or perhaps you keep dreaming that your mother-in-law is a shark. Are you dodging confrontation in your waking hours? Perhaps your boss promised you a lift up the corporate ladder, but you have yet to see any progress on that front. Your mother-in-law sucks the air out of the room at family functions. Look into it. Symbolism can help you interpret your dreams.

There is only one path to take. You must face your fears. A Mercury retrograde may not be the best time for action. But it works well for planning. Compose that talk with your boss or mother-in-law now. Do *something* on your own to release the pent-up tension. Get more exercise. You do not have to set any world records! Just do something that makes you sweat and prevents you thinking too much -something solitary perhaps. Like Swimming or running or skating. Given the retrograde, team sports are likely to end in arguments. That is the last thing your nerves need. If sport is not your thing, get busy at home. It can be very satisfying to beat bread dough into submission or clean out a cluttered garage.

RAT June 2015

Early in June, your social life will be full of gatherings. It's not only the marrying month. But people graduate in June. You find all this activity stimulating. Your energy levels are through the roof and it shows. You may notice someone smiling at you from across a crowded room. Their attention makes your heart beat a little faster. There is definitely a spark there. But beware. Is he or she actually single? Are you? We are still under the influence of Mercury retrograde. Deceptions and blurred boundaries will be the norm until after the 11th. There is more to new person than meets the eye. Before you have heard and checked out the whole story, don't fall into any love traps. A few thrilling moments are not worth the heartache you two might reap from a stolen fling.

Mercury is soon to turn direct. But not before one last moment of spite. Have you backed up your contact list recently? Now is the time to do so, because your phone numbers could be about to vanish. Please save them off line, as well as in your phone or computer. Whatever happened to good old-fashioned paper?

You have been suffering from some digestive problems lately. Something is off-kilter. Time to pay the family doctor a visit. If the problems persist, seek a second opinion. It may be that you can take matters into your own hands. Perhaps you need to tweak your diet (or lack thereof). Too much gluten? Not enough calcium? Double-check what you eat in a given day. Chances are, eliminating one of your daily bad habits will clear up the discomfort. Take a long hard look at your larder, too. Any long overdue products in there? Be honest with yourself. You have no intention of eating your cousin Betty's cast-iron fruit cake. So why is it still in your pantry? Throw it all out. Buy healthy, fresh foods. Keep packaged foods to a minimum.

RAT July 2015

Oh Rat, life has been boring you lately, hasn't it? Perhaps you have not yet contemplated taking up an exciting new hobby. A fresh pastime could be the perfect salve. But choose carefully. Find a pastime which inspires you. What you really crave now is mental stimulation. Keep an eye out for evening classes or other activities that promote in-depth group discussion. You will find intense debate just as thrilling and a lot safer than sky diving or rock climbing. Be prepared to encounter new enemies as well as new friends this month. Willy nilly, both will add depth to your life experience.

Prepare to say a few farewells mid-month. Probably at the airport. And do not be surprised if you bump into an old friend while you are there. This old crony is deeply religious - a kind of guru person. Your meeting will trigger further meetings which will allow you to dig to the core of your own beliefs. This searching could set off a personal epiphany. Now, you realize that what you have been preaching no longer matches what you truly believe. Your ideas are changing. This revelation will take time and require some contemplation. Spend some hours alone. Go sit under a tree and think. Try writing your thoughts in a daily journal. This is an excellent juncture to reevaluate your outdated belief systems.

July ends with a warning. Be careful around finances. You have been pulling out your credit card far too often. Perhaps you have even been spending more than you are earning. Or you have not been properly protecting what you have saved. If it is the former, tighten your belt. Adjust your budget and settle those credit card debts before they get out of hand. If you have been squandering, nip those splurges in the bud while you still can.

RAT August 2015

August begins with a celebratory event. Have you recently finished a course of study? Or is another aspect of your life coming to a conclusion? Perhaps you have outgrown a job or even decided to end a relationship. Maybe you have learned as much as you can from it. Time to move on. But do so in style. Show your gratitude to your mentor or partner. No matter if it's a co-worker, a teacher or a lover. A gift. A note. Never send a fax or an email to say good bye. That is cowardice personified.

By mid-month, your thoughts are bouncing around your brain like ping pong balls. You cannot concentrate on anything. The cause? Either a virus...or a new love. This will be the week for catching one (or both!). Snagged the virus? Drink more healthy fluids. Fresh juice, not caffeinated drinks. Get to bed earlier. Pamper yourself. Read a good book. If the root of your symptoms is a heart-stopping sensation of desire it could be directed toward an object rather than a person. A car. Perhaps a house. Try not to act impulsively. Let the desire simmer till the end of the month. If you still feel the same way at that point, and think it's a sound investment, then act. A sports car that costs more than you earn in a year is folly. Idem a cruise you could not afford on six months' income. Stay away from cravings which you think will enhance your image when, in fact, they will only empty your pockets.

End of August, you may find yourself challenging the power structures at work or within your family. Choose your battles wisely. Others are pushing their own selfish agendas on you. These people are not your friends. More likely, they are crafty business associates or greedy family members. Sometimes we need to choose between being polite and being true to ourselves and our values. This is not the time to try to please everyone. Nor is it the time to back down. Stand your ground. No matter what others are saying, you can only find success on your own chosen path.

RAT September 2015

As September opens, you are awaiting certain results with bated breath. They might be from a medical test. Or perhaps the fallout from that decision you made in August. The one that made you so unpopular. You are restless. Not to mention irritable. Go easy on the slow-moving person in front of you in the

grocery line. Before you say something you will regret, cool yourself down. Take a short break from your routine now. Visit your favorite scenic spot. Better yet, book a weekend away. Take the opportunity to be alone in a relaxing new place. The fear of the results which is making you so antsy, will end up to be moot.

Be ready for some surprising news upon your return. In the brief time you were gone, someone quit his or her job. This was not entirely unexpected. You sensed that the person was unhappy. On top of that, Mercury turns retrograde on us on the 17th. As communications sour, watch out for family bickering. The discord may be particularly severe, as it concerns an older person. A warm and earthy sort. Usually he or she is quite lovable. But in September, his/her outdated opinions will leave someone in the family bristling with outrage. This situation needs serious PR skills. But Mercury Rx is not a great juncture for exercising diplomacy. Best to try and separate the combatants and keep them apart until next month.

You have been underestimating your inventive side lately. Perhaps you have failed in the past in traditional art forms. But there is much more to creativity than those basics. Look up your local evening class options. Or go DIY and teach yourself a new skill. The internet and the library offer many how-to books and videos. It doesn't matter if you're good, passable or appalling at your new craft. In fact, it might be better if you are all thumbs. How so, you ask? Creative magic often happens through failure. We do learn by our mistakes.. Pick a fun, crazy activity. Finger painting. Belly dancing. Or simply buy a karaoke machine and bawl out some tunes in the basement. Get those demons out in the open.

RAT October 2015

Until Mercury goes direct on the 9th, it is best to stay away from signing legal documents. This is particularly frustrating at the moment, as you may be in the middle of closing a deal. It could be a property sale or a rental. Nothing will go as planned. Contracts vanish into thin air. Meetings clash with previous commitments. All you can do is roll with the punches. Flexibility is the only way to hold onto the scraps of your sanity. You will be tempted to binge on your favorite comfort foods this week. Don't.

Halfway through the month, news of an unexpected death may arrive. This will produce mixed emotions. You hold unhappy memories of this person. For this reason, you are tempted to skip the funeral. My advice? Suck it up and go. Not for the deceased's sake, but for your own. It is high time you faced your demons. At the memorial, you will gain a new perspective on some old grudges. Through the harsh lens of the funeral, your drama seems insignificant. Bury it with the dead. It no longer serves any purpose in your life. In addition, you might bump into an old friend (or an old more-than-a-friend) at the service. Someone from your school days. Do not forget to exchange numbers or emails. You two were always good together. It is very possible that your reconnection will lead to even better memories in the future.

At the end of the month, your image is threatened. The trigger? A simple photograph. Unfortunately, this hideous picture is plastered on your new ID or driver's license. And you look like a troll. Your friends and family think this is hilarious. And it is. Lighten up. There are worse things in life than green-tinted hair in an ID photo. You remember that old friend you reconnected with a week or so back? There is a very good chance that he or she will become your new romance. Or that they will introduce you to that someone who sets your heart on fire. If you are a lonely single Rat, this is very good news. If not—keep this relationship platonic.

RAT November 2015

As November rolls into town, you may have the opportunity to make an investment. It might relate to that property deal from October. The long-term possibilities make your eyes light up like car headlights. Do peruse the fine print carefully before you sign over your hard-earned cash. Unless you are an expert in this field, seek a second opinion. Preferably from someone older and more experienced.

In other news, your love life has recently taken a nasty turn. You want to hurt that person as badly as they hurt you. That might be satisfying in the short-term, but is it really the solution? Were you completely innocent? I think not. Were you part of the problem? If not, let go and let their Karma catch up with them. It's all about the timing in mid-November. Are you trying to make a baby? Or are you aiming for something more material like a raise? Trust your intuition. Be patient. Luck is on your side. You also have a friend who could use some of those good vibes. Perhaps a single parent or widow/er. They have been struggling lately, but they are too proud to admit it. Pay them a visit. Be observant. Is the larder empty? Is he or she wearing clothes that went out of style before the Cold War ended? You should lend a hand. Do not offer money openly. It will be refused. Instead, ask for help yourself. Make up an excuse. Could she teach you how to bake brownies? Could he fix your squeaky car door? Wait a week, then send a thank-you note with a check attached.

An upcoming family gathering has you wound tighter than a cuckoo clock. You are nervous about seeing a certain someone there. That relative who always makes you feel like a ne'er-do-well. It does not matter what car you drive or how much you spend on your outfit. They always find something to sneer at. Do yourself a favor. Stop judging yourself according to their standards. They know you have more self-confidence than they will ever have. Their inferiority complex is the source of their discomfort around you.

RAT December 2015

This year's festive shopping feels particularly grueling. Children are the culprits. Not yours—everyone else's. From babies screaming in the laps of fake Santas, to tantrum-throwing toddlers in restaurants. It is too much. All you want is a little peace and quiet. My advice? Buy online, in the silent sanctum of your office. No queues. No manic repeating versions of Jungle Bells. Just peaceful silence. After you have checked all the names off your shopping list, why not indulge yourself in your own festive treat? Something that will leave you feeling refreshed in body and mind. Perhaps a trip to a spa. A massage or an afternoon at the driving range.

At work, a long-term project is finally showing results. And it looks to be a bountiful harvest. For once, the end-of-the-year party will be worth going to. But control yourself there. You want to feel high-spirited emotions. (not to imbibe large amounts of spirits) By the middle of the holiday season, you will be in top form. More than ready for the usual mayhem of family and friends. The gifts are wrapped in stylish chic handmade paper. The food is on its way. Or in the oven. You even managed to send gift baskets to your lonely or older loved ones. Your holiday generosity is legendary. Bravo for pulling it off once again.

Watch out for transport delays during the last gasps of December. Someone coming home for the holidays is going to be much delayed. Don't panic. Food can be warmed up. However, as the year winds down, one more thing has you groping for the antacids. You fear you have somehow not done enough. This might relate to your career or in some oblique way, to your home life. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. This time of the year simply brings out some moments of gloom and doubt. Take a moment to reflect on the year gone by. You will realize how far you have actually come. Raise a quiet toast to yourself at midnight on New Year's Eve. You earned it.

RAT January 2016

January has Mercury moving backwards from the 5th until the 25th. There can be dicey communication problems. This is the perfect time to start a new non-verbal project. Or to finish an old one. Those bathroom floor tiles you always swore you would replace? No time like the present. That thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle you always wanted to make into a coffee table? Take another crack at it. It is also an excellent time to do some cleaning and clearing. But be careful what you throw away. You run the risk of

overlooking something valuable. Did Granddad tuck his life savings into an old shoe before he passed? Is that dull little vase actually a priceless heirloom? Better check each item twice.

The middle of January is an ideal time to surround yourself with youthful fun. If you have children, take them to a park or a silly movie. If you do not have any kids of your own, borrow someone else's for the day. Or take a niece or nephew. Better yet, invite your neighbor, the single parent. Eat sticky foods with your fingers. Laugh till your sides hurt. It will wipe the wrinkles off your face and prepare your spirit for the coming year. After all, a Monkey year is in the pipeline. The Monkey is one of your favorite playmates.

The Sheep year ends with happy news. A wedding or an engagement is on the horizon. You will be invited. You may even be a major character in the event. But this is no ordinary celebration. It includes travel. Perhaps one of the partners is from a foreign country. Or they have simply chosen an exotic location for the ceremony - a safari or a tropical paradise event. Remember to take your sunscreen, Make a copy of your passport. If you lose the real thing, you have proof of ID. Be sure you have the all the necessary vaccinations.

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR OXEN IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR OXEN

Oxxy Loxxy,

This year can be called Goat as well as Sheep. Oxxy, no getting around it, Goats get your goat. There is friction between you and the Sheep because the Sheep or Goat puts more emphasis on the lighter side of life, wants to depend on a stronger being or institution and is frequently not a self-starter. Sheep people may be geniuses. But they don't have the kind of kick-ass presence and plodding spirit that you admire. Sheep often work in spurts. Three or four nights at the computer without sleep followed by a week's snooze is fine with them. Their sense of time is other. You, determined, pre-programmed and steady at the helm, cannot abide this lurching rhythm and tweaking of schedules. You want more equilibrium in your day-to-day.

So in this Sheep year, I suggest you take to the hills. Buy that château in the south of France, watch your grapes grow, harvest them and turn them into wine. But don't try to compete for prizes or honors. Steer all contests a wide berth. Enjoy your love life now. It can be a number one priority because, in this frivolous Sheep year, you won't need to spend ALL your time working. When you're not busy making love, why not plan your next business coup? Next year, your Monkey chum comes around. Monkeys let Oxen get away with a LOT. sw OX January 2015

You could face a health setback around the 6th of this month. This is not set in stone. You are not inevitably fated to be ill in early January. But you will be more vulnerable during this time. Taking precautions with your health throughout 2015, and especially during December, can ensure that you experience nothing more severe than a head cold or a paper cut. If you do succumb to some health issue, don't play hero and pretend it's nothing. There is nothing heroic about continuing to drive yourself to death when your body needs rest.

Your partner may seem restless and anxious around the 10th of January. Most likely the root of this behavior lies in her/his workplace. She or he may hesitate at first to confide in you. Probe gently about what is bothering your partner. Do not offer any bits of advice unless they are requested. Demonstrate that you can be a good listener. Sometimes your honey simply needs to vent and to know that you actually care about their innermost woes.

Your partner may also be experiencing some girth issues. Around the 14th, he or she decides to go on a strict diet. Why not show your support by undertaking this new health regime with your sweetie? Life will be a lot easier if meals together do not require two separate menus. It will be simpler too for your partner to stay motivated if she/he does not have to watch you eating foods that are restricted on this diet program. No stringent diet is ever a *bad* diet. But some are more slimming than others.

The last two or three days of the Year of the Horse may bring some mixed news about your workplace rival. Your boss may decide to have the two of you share responsibilities on an important new project. It's even possible the two of you will have to share an office for a while. Take this in stride. Or appear to. The more closely you work with this adversary, the more opportunities will crop up to display the rival's sloppy work habits and show up their surly manners **OX February 2015**

February begins sluggishly for Ox folks. No roses, no wine and no romance...which means no Valentines this time around. Unfortunately, you have only yourself to blame. You have been so busy feeling sorry for yourself that love has slipped past your very nose! A certain someone is desperate to get your attention. He or she goes out of their way to smile and give you a cheery "good morning." But you just grunt and plod past. Stop brooding on how you are destined to be "forever alone." Pay attention to your surroundings. Return that smile! You will be pleasantly surprised at the results.

Important documents may need your attention around the 12th. This may relate to a business venture—this is a good time to invest, so you may have something positive in the pipeline. Or it could pertain to a job contract. Regardless, read the fine print carefully. There may be a clause that you need to alter before you sign off. Nothing major, but this section could cause future headaches if left in its current state.

This is also an opportune moment to focus on your family life. Spend a romantic evening with your partner. Take the brood en masse to a nearby scenic location. Have you been spying on a teenager? Convinced he or she is fraternizing with nefarious characters on the weekends? Or is it an older relative you are anxious about? Worried that they are squandering your inheritance at the slot machines? Neither is true. Your obsession needs to stop. Accept the fact that you must relinquish control.

Late February sees you and a colleague invited to an important meeting. This event could be anything from a church or temple reunion to a support group. Even if you are hesitant, accept anyway. You could make yourself some new friends. Your health requires your attention toward the end of the month. With all the late nights and junk food, your immune system may be in a slump. At the very least, this slump could lead to a cold. Cut out the refined sugars and starch and consume more fresh greens.

OX March 2015

March starts on a positive note. Your bank account is healthy. Provided you listened to my advice and adjusted your diet, your body is in better shape. The extra energy and cash could be making you restless. Perhaps it's time to buy that tempting item you have been lusting after for months. Or you could finally try the hobby you have always dreamt about, but never had the gumption to actually attempt. From bungee jumping to beekeeping, the possibilities are endless. But you will probably opt for something more concrete. Oxen—even at their most whimsical—prefer their leisure activities to have a purpose.

Midway through March, you may be called on to help a sick relative. He or she could be languishing at home or in hospital. It may be difficult to find time for them. But please persist. It's not the fruit basket or

the generic magazines they long for. Your company is what matters to this person. And you will find an extra reward beyond their grateful smile. You may bump into someone unexpected this week. Perhaps an old friend or long-lost relative who owes you a favor. Seeing you in person will prick their conscience. Except some form of recompense at last.

You could find yourself up at all hours of the night from the 23rd to the 27th. Sleep disturbances will upset your schedule for the following day as well. Is it nightmares or indigestion (or both?), which are keeping you awake? These may be the symptoms, but the cause is an unanswered worry lurking in the back of your mind. You need to face this anxiety. Only once you have confronted your demon will it stop haunting your dreams and worrying ulcers in your stomach walls. Reading a positive book or listening to soothing music will also help calm you down.

March ends with good news about a youngster who is close to your heart. It could be your own child. Or perhaps that of a neighbor or friend. They have either been granted a scholarship or a prestigious internship. Take them out for a celebratory meal. These milestones only occur so often, so raise a glass to him or her.

OX April 2015

April is slated to feel like a circus act. It has you juggling on the high wire as the crowds gasp. But the truth is, you feel far from incredible. Between commitments at work and duties at home, you have too many balls in the air. You need to lighten your load before you drop everything. Prioritize. Delegate responsibility if necessary. Better to do one thing well than ten things badly. Luckily, a friend will invite you to lunch or another event this week. Say yes. The break will do you good. Plus, this compadre will have some good news to share.

Mid-month, keep an eye out for life-changing moments of inspiration. You might find that your aimless doodles turn into a brilliant new concept for fancy cat baskets or exotic garden furniture. Don't try to force creativity, though. Relax. Let your ideas flow naturally. Keep a notepad handy by the bed or computer. You may be about to solve problems that have bothered you for decades. Suddenly, the foggiest conundrum seems perfectly clear and obvious. This inspiration will trickle down to your relationships as well. For the first time, you will know exactly what to say to that rude, pretentious cousin of yours. Or you may finally understand how to tactfully tackle the topic of your spouse's online shopping addiction.

As April wheezes to a close, your libido is running high. This should be a reason to smile as you scatter rose petals on the bed. Even with the promise of a pleasurable romp between the sheets, you may still feel somewhat anxious. Something you once thought vital now seems quite trivial. This could be but a minor failure that your mind has blown out of proportion. You long for a total overhaul. But you must keep your balance. Focus on the long term. Put your hobbies aside for a month or two. If you are seriously thinking of applying for work elsewhere, keep your current gig until you have settled on a new one. After all, it is a short-lived trapeze artist who cuts the high wire while he or she is still standing on it.

OX May 2015

Early in the month, you may discover that you can finally repay a debt. It could be the final installment on a car or property loan. Or you may be paying back a close friend or relative who lent you money earlier this year. This atonement will take a weight off your shoulders. The total opposite will be true around the 10th. Some unexpected visitors may drop by your pad. Of course, you are plopped in front of the TV wearing borderline-insane-asylum slob clothes. Somehow, friends or family were given your address. Explain that you were just getting ready to go to the doctor's office....or that you just woke up from a nap...any old excuse. You are in no state to be receiving uninvited guests.

Be careful what you say and write after Mercury turns retrograde on the 18th. This is especially true where friends are concerned. One of your dearest friendships has been turning into more than a friendship lately. For a single Ox, this could be the beginnings of a lovely romance. For married Oxen, this can only spell trouble. Either way, a retrograde is not the time to debate these dicey matters with anyone. Spend the rest of the month in active contemplation. If you talk to anyone, let it be your conscience. Clean the house or hose down the garage. Or wash the car. Or go for a long walk. Do whatever it takes to steer clear of deep conversations.

Watch out for an accident near the end of the month. This mishap will most likely occur because of your inattentiveness during some physical activity. Please take out the earphones when you jog in the park. Silence your cell phone when you are driving. All it takes is one lapse of concentration to end up with a broken bone. You may be nursing a bruised ego as well as the week progresses. Someone at work has been deliberately putting you down. They play the class clown, but you have noticed that their jokes are always at your expense. Remember: Mercury is in retrograde. Bite your tongue. Engaging in any verbal discourse might boomerang. The less you react to this instigation, the better.

OX June 2015

Someone in your life has an obsession. At the beginning of June, they might attempt to convince you that you should worship at its altar as well. But you do not care in the slightest. If this person were a stranger, you would have slammed the door on them long ago. But you respect this guy or girl. Their infatuation could concern many things. Perhaps they have discovered a “revolutionary” way of exercising and insist they you sign up too. Maybe they have a political view which irritates you to no end. Rather than debate your differences, change the subject. At least avoid controversial topics until the 11th, when Mercury retrograde ends. Ease the conversation toward subjects you agree on: diets, dentists or aching joints.

Towards the middle of June, you could be putting your signature on some food-related legal documents. Are you starting your own restaurant or pizza place? Or are you busy patenting your April brainstorm for edible children’s crayons? Persevere with this dream. It has money-making potential. You may be heading to the airport later this week. Family will be visiting, or vice versa. Stay alert when you are there. Do not let the welcome sight of loved ones distract you from your belongings. Otherwise, you risk misplacing or even losing your luggage.

A family member repeatedly starts arguments with you during the last week of June. You would prefer to remain neutral. But this relative persists. Why not bring in a mutual friend as a mediator? Together, see if you can figure out what the underlying problem is. On a brighter note, a social invitation closes out the month. It could be for a significant birthday or anniversary. With all your focus on the event itself, do not forget that you need something to wear. Best run a wardrobe check well before the big day. Perhaps those shoes you were counting on to match your outfit are just a smidgen the wrong shade of mauve. And that garment you wore last time? Think again. Unfortunately, a few extra kilos can make a “hugely” unpleasant fashion statement.

OX July 2015

You could well be traveling for health reasons early in July. This could be a foray into the big city for an appointment with a specialist. Or it could be something more pleasant, such as a vacation to rejuvenate. Either way, your health will benefit from this jaunt. You may even find yourself taking a new love along on this trip. Afterwards, good news will come by letter/email or by phone. It might concern a clean bill of health or an enticing proposal—romantic or financial. You will be delighted.

By the second week of the month, you can no longer postpone certain necessary goodbyes. You must make way for replacements. As you usher an old love out the door, a new one will be waiting to enter. The

same can be true of a job or long-term project. Completions will lead to openings for new opportunities. You may feel nostalgic—even a bit depressed. But these endings will lead to other, better opportunities. Be careful in the middle of the month if you play a sport or take part in a rigorous hobby. You run the risk of injury. This is particularly true of water sports. Remember to check all your equipment before embarking on any potentially perilous activity. What would your mother say? (Answer? better safe than sorry.) As July ends, you are compelled to honor an earlier promise. This seems to relate to animals. You could be obliged to pet-sit for a friend. Or perhaps you vowed to volunteer at an animal charity with the same friend. You will probably enjoy the experience more than you are willing to admit. In addition, keep your eyes open for financial opportunities around now. There may be innovative opportunities in the field of nature or animals. Do you have a chance to invest in an environmentally safe Kennel for pets? A vegetarian fast food outlet? An eco-friendly golf course and hotel complex? Peruse every syllable before you sign any papers. Get cogent legal advice from a professional. Make sure the concept is viable. Don't lose your investment.

OX August 2015

At the beginning of August, you feel on top of the world. Your love life is especially sweet. So why are you on edge? You could be scared that anything this good could never last. Maybe so, but why spoil today by fretting over tomorrow? You have this moment. Enjoy it. The moment is (btw) all any of us ever have. A phone call this week will provide a welcome distraction. It may bring news of a reunion. Someone you reconnect with at the event is trying in vain to hide their loneliness. Their hidden agenda might surprise you, since he or she was always the leader of your circle. You were close friends once. Invite them over for a meal. A little reminiscing will cheer them up.

Mid-month, you are tempted to dabble in DIY. It may be time to finally build that backyard gazebo. How about altering the color scheme of your kitchen? Be careful while shopping in the hardware stores...their products are so very tempting. You could get roped into buying more than you need. Focus on your reason for being there. You can indulge in accessories later, once you know how much of your budget remains. If you splurge on that patio furniture on sale, you may not be able to afford the gazebo's foundation. But then no gazebo. No place to display and enjoy the bargain furniture. In addition, do not forget a birthday this week. This is someone you do not want to slight. Check your calendar.

You may participate in a significant social event around the 25th to the 28th. It could be a talk or seminar related to a charity or even to politics. Is a local election drawing near? The speaker will be electrifying. You may not agree with all of his or her views, but you will most certainly be inspired. You might even be persuaded to volunteer your services to the cause. Just make sure it is the movement itself that you support, not the speaker's eloquence. As the month ends, your mood is pensive. Why not spend some time in nature? Take a long walk in the park. Go on a picnic or fishing trip. Hug a tree. Oxen can gain a great deal of inner peace from solitary outdoor activities.

OX September 2015

September starts with you gearing up to join a social movement. Perhaps this is triggered by the event you attended in August. You are increasingly aware of the world around your home. Perhaps a plan is in the works to develop the neighborhood park into a shopping mall. Or has your town been designated a fracking zone? Whatever the issue, you feel a need to get involved, even if only by addressing envelopes. You might also find yourself questioning your spiritual beliefs this week. It may be time to return to your childhood religious roots. Or perhaps to do the opposite. Feel free to search elsewhere for the solace you so long for.

Progress grinds to a halt halfway through the month as Mercury kicks up his heels again on the 17th. Your

life seems bogged down in minutiae. Fret not. The feeling is temporary. Since words are not your friends now, focus on the physical. Get more exercise. Go hiking. Take up Zumba or Tango dancing. Why not sign up for some classes? Develop a new hobby/pastime? If you are without sufficient options near your home, see if a kind relative or friend will teach you. Pick someone with a good sense of humor. A person whose communications skills include a few jokes. Anything related to food will be particularly enjoyable. Let them teach you to bake bread. Or take a class in Brazilian cooking.

As September inches to the finish line, fickle Mercury is screwing with your love life. Arguments abound. They are based on misunderstandings, not fundamental problems. You misinterpret something he or she said. He or she did not listen to your point. What you really need is to sit down and talk it out. Unfortunately, there is that small matter of Mercury's orbit. My advice? Let non-verbal cues do the work until you can have sensible conversations again. A wedding is on the horizon. Even if you must stoop to bribery, drag your partner along. The thrill of new love will rekindle your own flagging fires. In the meantime, be patient. Be extra attentive. Ignore barbs thrust in the heat of the moment. Instead, focus on the intimate. This relationship is worth saving.

OX October 2015

Hobbies or pets may occupy your attention early in the month. You could be buying a small fluffy creature for a child. Maybe you are indulging your own interests. A fish tank perhaps? Or have you always longed to own a ferret? Read up on your animal choice before you close the deal. Sure, it looks adorable in the shop window. But that won't prevent it from growing into a nightmare at home. If you live small, buy small. If your free time is limited, get something low-maintenance (only tiny dogs...sorry). Watch where you put your feet this week. You could find a lost object belonging to someone. Make an scrupulous effort to return it. The owner will be bowled over and may reward you.

Finally, Mercury pulls out of his retrograde orbit on the 9th. Just in time, as you will need a clear mind and eloquent tongue this week. You may have some government business to attend to around the 12th or 14th. This probably relates to children. Perhaps you need to inquire about transferring a child to a new school? Or perhaps you are seeking information about a possible adoption. A family member may ask you out for a meal this week. It seems casual, but they have an ulterior motive. Do not be surprised if an awkward revelation materializes over after-dinner drinks.

The end of October may find you at a crossroads. You have two distinct choices. But you cannot decide which path to take! Perhaps you have two job offers on the table. Or a choice of work contracts. One has better money, but the other offers more security. You only need to ask yourself one question. Which will get you closer to your ultimate goals? Once you have that figured out, create a detailed, logical plan. A senior colleague or business associate may offer sound advice. Weigh their opinion carefully, and you will make the right choice. Close the month by forgiving an old hurt. This might stretch back to your younger days. Perhaps it involved a racial or religious insult. This is hardly unique. You were both young and ignorant. Let it go. It's time to move on.

OX November 2015

As November dawns, you are fretting over a situation that hasn't worked out as you hoped. It could be in the social or athletic realms. A person in the group is so obsessed with winning that they are willing to do anything. Including cheating and manipulating. You hold the power to resolve this problem before it goes too far. Evaluate the situation carefully. Can you foster a better attitude in the group? Is the cost of keeping this person around too high? You must remain unbiased in your analysis. Above all else, avoid seeking revenge. It will solve nothing, and it could sour everything. There will be a happy occasion around the 7th. An acquaintance is expecting a baby! It could be a close relative, co-worker or even a friendly neighbor.

Your health may take a sudden nose-dive around the midpoint of November. It's probably the flu or a virus. The illness might leave you with inner-ear issues, dizziness or headaches. Take care of yourself. Remember to drink plenty of healthy fluids. Trade the five coffees in for some fresh fruit juice. If you can't function without a hot drink, substitute a fruit tea or lemon squeezed in hot water with honey. Get more rest. Read a good book (or two). At work, your mind will probably be slower than usual. Luckily, help will arrive from a surprising source. This co-worker is not someone you know well. That changes now. They could turn out to be one of your closest friends.

Family keeps you occupied in the third week. Someone is moving into a new home. Possibly even a brand-new house. In all likelihood, you will get roped in to helping. This will involve moving heavy objects. Be careful how you bend and hoist. Lift with your legs, not with your back. You are at risk for an injury this month.

The month's end beckons you to search for your inner artist. This might manifest itself in an urge to take up watercolor painting. Or it could be something less traditional. Perhaps you want to design your own tattoo. Enjoy your artistic urges, but avoid actually planting that tattoo on your body. You will thank me when you're fifty and have grandkids who point and giggle every time you go swimming together.

OX December 2015

December is going to be a fun-filled month. You are likely planning a party around the 5th. The only problem is that throwing a soiree is hard work. You already have a full calendar. A deluge of invitations is probably pouring through your letterbox and filling your email inbox as we speak. Be careful of impulse purchases as you try to cram gift buying into your busy schedule. Do you really need those five jars of cilantro-infused mayonnaise for your gala? It might make sense to set aside an evening to work out a plan of action. Blitz the gift shopping online. Let someone else deliver them to your doorstep. Preferably gift-wrapped. See if any restaurants offer affordable party catering in your area.

A charming and passionate person literally spins into your life around the 14th or 15th of the month. Their effect on you is both dizzying and delightful. But be careful. This is not the right person to get involved with long-term. If you are single and searching for a serious relationship, look elsewhere. If you are married – just say no. And mean it. Avoid the mistletoe at all costs. Someone who works or lives overseas will contact you this week. They could be coming home for the holidays, or even moving back permanently. You may have mixed feelings about this news. You love them, but find them easier to love long-distance. If this is a romantic connection, it might be time to face the music. If you can't get excited about their return, it is time to move on.

Late December may see you beset with FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out). Someone has left you off the guest list for their holiday bash. This all goes back to a childhood grievance. This person has never seen the real you. And they never will. There is nothing you can do to change that. All you can do is accept reality—the two of you will never see eye-to-eye. Holding onto an old grudge is harmful and unnecessary. Is this person really worth your tears? How about a fresh ulcer? I doubt it. Let go of the past. You will also be tempted to bet money on a sporting event as the year ends. If you do win, it will not be much. So don't quit your day job.

OX January 2016

Wretched Mercury returns to retrograde orbit from the 5th to the 25th. What should you do to best mitigate the problems associated with this period? Stay in bed and avoid all encounters with other human beings. Or run away to a tropical island (preferably a deserted one). Obviously, most of us cannot accomplish either of these feats. The best you can do is to avoid long distance travel, be patient with communication glitches and postpone signing important documents until the month is over. As we move towards the new

Monkey year, things will pick up pace. Brace yourself for sudden change, often at a second's notice. This starts with unexpected phone calls or letters. A painful family secret might be revealed around the 8th. It will hurt, but everyone is strangely relieved to have it out in the open. Finally, the healing can begin.

You have to work hard to assert your independence around the middle of the month. This applies to your work or business. You have been underestimating your ability to achieve success. It's time to toss those insecurities to the curb. Spread your wings. The take off will be bumpy at first, but you will be flying high soon enough. More sudden change arrives with news of a farewell. Someone you love and respect is moving far away. This is a charismatic person, confident and urbane. You look up to him or her with awe. This acquaintance has been there for you during many difficult periods in your life. Yes, you will miss them. But in the process of moving on, you will discover your own strength. Constant support can sometimes become a crutch.

Finances are somewhat volatile this month. Money comes and goes. Often at a speed which leaves you breathless. This is especially true if you have recently started a new business. Do not panic. The ship will right itself before the bank takes your home. In fact, the fast pace of events may leave you quite exhausted by the end of January. Set aside a day for total rest and solitude. Plug in your earphones. Lose yourself in some soothing music for a few hours. Run a hot bath and soak in relaxing scented oils. Avoid all phone calls. Sip some of your finest wines and plot your next coup.

TIGER

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR TIGER IN 2015

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Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

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Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015
May 18 thru June 11, 2015
Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015
Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

Tawny Tigers ,

You will generally fare well under the Sheep's influence. But you will have to fight hard to get and keep what you want. Do not meddle in the Sheep's convoluted methods of accomplishing what he or she sets about doing. You can never understand - much less approve. Tigers and Sheep do not view life in the same manner. Basically, Sheep enjoy being tethered in fertile fields. That way, they can work their creative magic without worrying about dealing with the harsh, outside world. You are quite the opposite. You are a born independent. You don't enjoy being tethered anywhere. Ever.

As a result of this major difference in approach, in Sheep years, you often feel disapproved of. Not that you give a single whisker whether or not you are liked by the Sheep. But you do wish he would stop cramping your style. Ideally, in these years, you will do more traveling. For both business and pleasure. You will enjoy the roaming about. Meeting some like-minded folks will help you keep your engines running for the twelve rather languid months ahead. On the other hand, the money gods are on your side in these years. This may not translate to a pillow of gold coins for your tawny head. But it does signify that you are doing something right be nomading around at your own inimitable breakneck speed. sw

TIGER January 2015

The approaching Year of the Sheep (starts February 19) may require you be ready to switch directions in a jiffy. Streamline your life in preparation for the beginning of a new Chinese year next month. Is your

home littered with magazines you subscribe to and never read which have gathered dust ? Cancel those subscriptions immediately. Donate the un-read magazines to your local library. Also jettison any programs on your DVR that you recorded months ago and never got around to watching. If you have been wasting too much precious time on Facebook, limit yourself to five minutes a day to catch up with your friends. But lose the habit of spending hours there. Moreover, give yourself a strict time budget for any websites which have become time wasters.

Feng shui experts purport that getting rid of clutter makes room for new energies to enter your life. You are likely to find that after cleaning and organizing your home environment, you find new creative inspiration. You have a brilliant idea for re-painting a room in your house, possibly involving a mural. You start writing a children's book. You wake up in the middle of the night with a fabulous notion for a new painting that came to you in a dream. You start sketching this immediately. You pick up an instrument you used to play years ago and start composing a song.

The last two weeks of the Year of the Horse offer a marvelous opportunity for mending broken fences and building new bridges. If your relationship with any of your neighbors has fallen into disrepair, correct that now. Invite them for lunch or brunch. Be sure to inquire about their dietary restrictions. It won't do to serve ham to vegetarians or a pork chop to someone who keeps kosher. Make light, pleasant conversation. Steer clear of controversial topics. See how the atmosphere brightens on its own. Life has a way of giving back what we offer it. Your neighbor will suddenly soften and begin to co-operate with you about that garden project they so vehemently vetoed last year.

TIGER February 2015

As the new year takes off, you will find yourself leaping at love...or are you pouncing for the kill? It is hard to tell. Your lover is equally uncertain. You are straddling the line between flirtatious sparring and passion. Why are you so irritable? Work has been uncooperative of late. That has not lifted your mood. But don't take your irritation out on whoever is closest. Instead, put yourself in a timeout. Unwind alone for a few evenings. Better still—get some real exercise. Do something vigorous to work off that anger. Later, when your head is clear, make some more headway with that lover you were getting so passionate about.

Midway through February, you will deduce the real reason for your tetchiness. You did a work colleague a minor wrong many moons ago. You shrugged it off at the time. But unbeknownst to you, the quarrel festered. All your recent problems stem from this man or woman. They have been deliberately putting obstacles in your way. The ground has become quicksand beneath your feet. No wonder you have been snarling. My advice? Make amends. If you do, this conflict will blow over. When work hours are through, find novel ways to relax. Spend more time chatting with friends. One of them has good news to share. This revelation will take your mind off your personal tribulations. Perhaps a mutual acquaintance has become engaged or a new baby is on the way.

Some recent bills have added to February's uneasy vibe. Looks like you spent a tad too much last holiday season. Now the ghost of Christmas past is here to haunt you. In the form of harshly-worded form letters! *Gasp!* But this is a Sheep year. And the Sheep is good to hard-working Tigers. Things will improve over the coming months. Until then, trim back on the spending. Browse thrift shops. Avoid multiple trips to the nearest grocery store. Ditch the junk food and fattening snacks. You will simultaneously save money and improve your health.

TIGER March 2015

March starts with a family shake-up. A young adult has either eloped or dropped out of school. He or she could be yours or a cousin's child. Or perhaps a niece or nephew. There will be plenty of finger pointing

before this blows over. If this junior person contacts you, keep your opinions to yourself. I know, I know. You want to scream “What were you thinking?!?!” and shake them like a rag doll. But unsolicited advice will only cause the situation to deteriorate further. Remember your own impulsive youth? You leapt. You crashed. Yet, you survived. They will survive as well. Speaking of survival—be careful when driving this week. You are burnt out and distracted. The combination can spell doom when behind the wheel. Better to take public transport than to nod off driving and wake up in the ER.

The middle of the month is just as hectic. You offer to watch a friend’s home while he or she is away. On the surface, this is an easy gig. They do not have pets or plants. All you need do is stop by on your way to work and check up on the house. Simple enough. Until the front door key snaps in the lock. Or the central heating gets stuck on maximum. As the cherry on top, a nosy neighbor mistakes you for a burglar and calls the police. Thankfully, a few phone calls will sort everything out.

It is high time you got away for a few days. At the end of the month, take a weekend to unwind. Nothing fancy. And do not be afraid to leave your cell phone at home. You need some solitude. If you cannot manage a literal vacation, fake one. Tell everyone you will be away. Then disable all forms of contact with the outside world. Go into hibernation. Remember to stock up on good books, movie classics and tasty eats. Watch for an unexpected gift at the tail end of March. This might entail a thank-you present from the friends whose house you watched. Or perhaps a birthday boon that was accidentally sent too early or too late.

TIGER April 2015

You are very susceptible to colds and flu this month. If you managed to get that rest I advocated at the end of March, this illness will be done with quickly. But as Tigers so often do, you have probably been burning the candle at both ends. If that is the case, you might find yourself laid up for a week or longer. Give your immune system a boost with some healthy dietary choices. Add more fresh vegetables, chock full of vitamins and minerals. And especially search for fruits and juices laden with vitamin C. Avoid processed foods and lower your sugar intake. Once you are feeling more like your old self, try getting some fresh air. A relaxing saunter will be just as beneficial as antibiotics and cough lozenges. Embark on a soothing walk in the park. Or wander through the local zoo for an afternoon.

Later in April, clothing may play a part in your love life. Perhaps you will meet someone charming at the dry-cleaners. Or you will be choosing a fetching dress or chic shirt to wear for an upcoming big date. Exciting times. Make the most of them. Don’t pounce. Move in stealthily as any good Tiger should.

That workplace problem you were dealing with back in February seems like a distant memory at this point. The situation has turned in your favor. The obstacles your adversary forced you to hurdle. caused you to work harder. The higher-ups have noticed. You could be offered a promotion or a juicy new contract. With extra money in your pocket, consider some financial improvements. April is ideal for investments. If you own your own business, you might want to rent up market premises. Or buy your own shop or warehouse. Make certain to have any prospective property examined by a third party before you sign on the dotted line. Ensure that your “dream come true” does not turn into a nightmare of raucous neighbors or chronic dampness.

TIGER May 2015

Sighted: one happy Tiger. You are to receive a timely cash boost in early May. Perhaps you manage to pawn off some of your old, unwanted possessions. And for a far better price than you expected! Or you might receive an unexpected check in the mail. An old debt is being repaid. Save half. Splurge with the rest. Put a little of that moolah toward something that makes your heart sing. If you are a dashing Tiger, a new cologne or an espresso machine could be your luxury purchase. Female Tigers are more likely to

squander their money away on scented candles, elegant perfumes or pricey spa treatments.

Enjoy your luxurious treats while they last, because things are soon to sour. On the 18th, Mercury turns back into his retrograde orbit. You know the drill. Avoid signing anything significant. Be ready for communications to go awry. One way you can make the best of this period is by helping a family member. This will be assistance in a practical sense. Moving house. Shifting furniture. Clearing out an attic or garden. No words or advice need be involved. So there is no reason to fear a retrograde-addled misunderstanding. You may not feel much like helping out. Ignore your reservations. Whatever kindness you dole out this month will be repaid in bucket-loads of good fortune in the coming months.

May ends on a decidedly foul note. Maybe your refrigerator shuts down, spoiling the newly purchased food inside. Or your plumbing blocks up. Yuck. It will take more than perfumed candles to eradicate the odors! But do not despair. This is exactly why you saved part of that cash windfall. And that relative you helped last week? He or she knows the perfect handyman to call. Not only that, but your local store is having an everything-must-go sale on freezers or new bathroom fittings. Look for bargains in pink. Blatant pink- as in a retro candy-pink refrigerator. Or in a more subtle faded pink coupon for a two-for-one appliance sale. You will know your deal when you see pink.

TIGER June 2015

As June arrives, a frisky mood descends on you Tigers. Lustful Tigers in relationships will heading for their favorite seduction spot. But you must exercise patience. Mercury has not righted its orbit. Until the 11th, wooing is best left to other signs. At this time, words of courtship might come out twisted and be patently ineffective. Instead, take your excess energy and slave away in your unruly garden or resume work on an indoor project you have been avoiding. By the middle of the month, Mercury retrograde will be over. You will have accomplished wonders at home. Pour out a glass of your favorite drink and revel in your accomplishments. Now's the time as well to get back to the seduction you longed to set in motion early in June.

Speaking of tackling unruly problems...someone is trying to control you at this juncture. The very idea is ludicrous, I know. But unsettling nonetheless. This man is a (so-called) friend or relative. He constantly puts others down in order to make himself look better. Unfortunately, he has now latched onto you as a target. He may well try to make you look like the fool. Remain cool. Smile, even if through clenched teeth. Confidence is the best weapon in your arsenal. The brighter you shine, the less power he will have. Do not invite him into your life. A true friend has good news around this time. Buy them a congratulatory gift. Or take them out for a celebratory meal. Make it a night to remember.

Fun is on the menu at the end of June. You will have several invitations to various gatherings. Some for the immediate future, some farther down the line. You will need to do a bit of shopping. Best to have a new outfit for at least one event. As you trawl the shops for something chic, you might notice a strange sensation of emptiness. It could be simple exhaustion. But it is more likely that you are trying to escape a memory. Did you stumble on some love letters which pierced your heart? Is this week the anniversary of a great loss? Why not take an evening or weekend for yourself. Dig out those painful photos of you with your ex. Re-read the letters. Examine the memories you try so desperately not to think about. Have a good cry, if you must. You have let it out to let it go.

TIGER July 2015

June left you feeling dulled - bored. As you absently wash the dishes or sit musing in traffic, you may fantasize about running away. Preferably to a place exotic and remote. The bad news? You are unlikely to manage a tropical holiday this month. The good news? You could soon be on the move. A job transfer or career change might have you switching towns or homes soon. At this stage, you have only a tentative

offer. Or an idea brewing at the back of your brain. But it will become a reality soon enough. Now, it is time to take stock of your life. Lighten up (literally). Take a walk around your home. Which possessions do you really need? How much is enough? If you have to pack and travel, you want to be lighter. Resist the temptation to drag along twenty crates of junk.

Lighten up on yourself while you are at it. You have been in a rut of late. Stagnating. Time for a shake-up and wake-up! How about an evening seminar in something completely new? Something entirely out of your comfort zone. Perhaps related to the exotic holiday destinations you dream about. Brazilian Capoeira or Ghanaian cooking classes come to mind. Stretch your mind (and/or your body). Go a little crazy—in a good way. You might even make some new friends in the process. There is a very strong possibility that single Tigers will make a romantic connection this month. Will he or she literally sweep you off your feet in a martial arts course? Or will gourmet cooking classes be the recipe for love? You will never know unless you try.

Do not forget that medical appointment this month. Your issue is not life-threatening. But it does need to be dealt with. Get it over with now. You know full well that neglecting such a problem will only make it worse. Luckily, the horizon looks bright in late July. You are to be rewarded for your hard work. The prize could be a career improvement. Perhaps that move we were talking about earlier in July? Or your loved one may have noticed all the effort you have been putting into your personal life recently. If you continue to play your cards right, there could be some true passion in the works for you! Whichever it is, expect to end the month purring in contentment.

TIGER August 2015

August tiptoes in on a whisper. But do not let that lure you into a false sense of security. Storms are brewing on the horizon. You will soon be in need of advice. A work difficulty may be the first issue to crop up. “No problem,” you say to yourself. “I can handle this on my own.” You might be very wrong. Get some professional help. Things are not what they seem. And you cannot act until you have all the facts. Do your homework. Find the root cause. Only then will you be ready to sort things out. In addition, watch out for small storms on the home front. Minor irritations that slow you down. Probably due to your lack of focus. Keys wander underneath furniture. Shoes vanish in singles as well as pairs.

Someone is trying to guilt you into helping them. Please ignore their requests. No matter how much they bat their eyelids or pout. This is a long-term commitment. One for which you are not prepared. Tigers do not deal well with traps! And you have more than enough on your plate already. Let others pick up the slack this time around. If you do become ensnared, swallow your pride and ask for help. If you cannot decline this request for aid, delegate it to someone else. The silly/serious ratio in your life is out of whack. So spend the rest of the week getting to know your inner child. Nothing recharges the human soul better than simple fun and laughter. Be naughty. Find more reasons to giggle. Grab a book or movie that will make you laugh till you gasp.

Near the month's end, cultures are clashing rather than blending at home. You have an in-law or distant relative who is of a very different background. It could be religious, cultural or racial. People on both sides of the family are making things worse. The mudslinging is starting to aim below the belt of tolerance. Unfortunately, there is not much you can do about this situation. Show sympathy for the genuine hurt on both sides. Avoiding projecting your own rather radical opinions. Take a deep breath and back away. Go home and watch an old movie. Or read a lurid thriller. The family in-fighting is painful, but not life-threatening. Let them sort it out on their own.

TIGER September 2015

You have been dipping deeper and deeper into your bank accounts. Do you really need all those impulse

purchases? Or are they merely your way of trying to fill some void in your life? Face it. You are in a rut. Impatient for change. Both at work and in your personal life. Buying new things will not bring about a new you. That change has already begun, imperceptible as it may seem. Try a new approach—stop forcing things. You are getting in your own way. Stop being the hamster on the wheel. Get off. Slow down. Stop and smell the...romance? Yes. Because love will ooze on in this month. Back off and give it space to grow.

You will either meet a new love or rekindle an old fire around now. The catalyst? Sports. Was your first date with your spouse at an athletic match? Try cuddling up to watch the same event on TV. See if the sports cuddle ignites any passions. Single Tigers might bump into Mr. or Ms. Wonderful at a ball game. Or perhaps you will swap numbers in a sports bar. When Mercury goes retrograde on the 17th, keep it simple. Avoid deep conversations. Go for long, quiet walks together. Watch a sunset. Enjoy your non-verbal time together. Buy a lottery ticket with both your lucky numbers on it. There is a chance of a small win mid-month.

Grrr. More frustrations. You will need to purchase a new appliance when one of your own stops working. It could be anything from a hair dryer to a toaster. Be adventurous—buy a more versatile replacement. At the end of September, Mercury's fiery orbit will begin to attack written communications. Look out for emails sent to the wrong people. Or snail-mail letters getting redirected to the wrong address. This could be problematic, as you are probably sending out invitations for friend or family member. It's about a wedding or another significant family event. Double-check that everyone who was supposed to get an invitation did in fact receive theirs. Watch out for gate-crashers. One of those invites that went astray may have landed in the wrong hands.

TIGER October 2015

The first week of October sees you nursing a health issue. Most likely a minor injury. Perhaps a sprained joint or a strained muscle. Try to take time off to rest. Grab the Epsom salts and take a long hot soak in the tub. You need to be rested. First part of the month, a slip of the tongue is about to cause some problems within your social circle. Not for you personally. But unfortunately, an acquaintance has become embroiled in fraud or financial theft. You could find yourself invited to the police station. The cops want your version of the events. If you can, stall until after the 9th. You do not want to sign a statement until the retrograde influence clears.

Midway through October, a pleasant surprise is coming your way. This unforeseen present is a thank-you from someone you helped in the past. Or it could be an heirloom given to you by a family member. Or a gift certificate from a secret admirer. Their appreciation will lift your spirits as much as the gift itself. We all want acknowledgment - to know that our efforts do not go unnoticed. Repay the favor by remembering to distribute a few thank-yous yourself. We can be quick to complain. But we are slow to recognize the impact a simple "thanks" can have. Send off a few handwritten notes or e-cards. Buy someone flowers. Pass along the good mood.

Hold onto that positive vibe for the month's ending. You have been "winging it" on a project. Possibly something for your job. Or some form of study. You have managed to get by taking risks and bluffing for quite a while. But your plan is about to fall apart. Time to grit your teeth and get down to business. Make a logical plan of action. And stick to it! The consolation is that the more genuine effort you put into this, the more stupendous the result will be. Make sure to eat properly. Do not use the increased workload as an excuse to indulge in junk and pizza. If you have minimal time to shop and cook, remember... It's a cinch to toss together a salad or a healthy pasta. Add more fruit to your shopping list. Fruit sugars are the most pancreas-friendly kind.

TIGER November 2015

As November zips in on a windy day, you have decided to give up an old addiction. Whatever the habit, it constitutes an unhealthy excess that is damaging your well-being. The trick is to occupy your mind. Find options to replace your ritual. If your compulsion is for an edible item, fill your home with tasty, non-damaging alternatives. Throw away packaged foods. Consider reintroducing a former pastime as a replacement. Something that you used to love, but have let slide. It could be playing music. Or riding a bicycle. Or jogging. You adored this hobby, but you got bored and lost interest. (Typical Tiger) Don't say you are too old to ride a bike or that you are plumb out of shape. Who cares! Resuming this old pastime is about having fun. Not winning medals.

You will suffer a disappointment halfway through the month. Perhaps that new flame has withered to a puff of smoke. Or a flattering job offer has been withdrawn. To cope, change your perspective. This is not the end of the line. Just another bump in the road. The love interest? Your ego is bruised because they bailed first. At some level, you both knew the ship was going down. The two of you deserve better than such a limp relationship. And maybe that career move was sideways rather than up. Or perhaps it would have meant moving to a town you hate. Take a weekend or two to unwind. Pamper yourself. Cook a few favorite dishes, read a good book or plan an evening of your favorite television shows.

In late November, you will be on the move. A short jaunt to visit friends or family. Double-check that you have all the right paperwork for the trip—passport, driving license, etc. You should have a fantastic time and return home invigorated. Watch out for a con man en route. Trust your instincts. He might be at the airport, trying to nudge you into dropping your money. He could be an iffy car dealer offering to rent you a dubious vehicle for the trip. Beware the inevitable fake taxi drivers. Remain alert. Not anxious. Just aware.

TIGER December 2015

As Decembers dawns, contentment fills your heart. Reflecting on the year, you realize that something positive developed out of even the worst situations. Work is going well, mostly thanks to a disruptive person leaving the company. This departure has led to a more balanced structure. Fewer power struggles. Which means more harmony. The future looks bright. The only problem? Your career success has come at the price of your personal life. You have neglected things on the home front. Fortunately, you can make up for that. Not with gifts, but with time. Your loved ones will see right through any shallow bribery attempts. So abort the bouquet of flowers and the new iPhone case. Spend more quality time with your people.

Good fortune is written in the stars this month. Whether it be love, money or good health, whatever you truly need will find you. And what auspicious timing! Take some extra days off work. Share your happiness with your loved ones. Especially younger family members. One of them needs your full attention. While you were so occupied at the office, they were busy falling apart. A broken heart? A dire failure at school? You were too busy to notice their unhappiness. But now that you have realized your transgression, provide your shoulder to cry on and your ear to Listen. They will be needing sympathy and solutions. No reprimands. Help them make the right decisions to turn things around.

Later this month, you will be the one needing help. This relates somehow to cooking. Are you planning a party? A festive family gathering? When someone offers you a hand, accept with grace. They have the expertise and enthusiasm you lack. Together, you will create a feast to remember. One warning—watch out for pet problems this holiday season. With all these soirees, it is very possible that someone will leave a door open and Fluffy or Fido will make a break for it. You do not want to spend the new year helping tearful children pin up lost pet posters. Make sure all cages are firmly shut and all pets tucked

securely away.

TIGER January 2016

Mercury goes retrograde on the 5th and stays that way until the 25th, making the end of the Sheep year somewhat frustrating to navigate. As long as you remain conscious of this confounding influence, you will survive the month unscathed. Thankfully, work is going well. Also, the holidays have left you at an all time high in your social circles. So spend the month of January getting simple things done. Tidy up at home or work. Clean out your cupboards. Go for walks. Cook new types of meals. If they pass muster, prepare them again and invite the people you know will appreciate them.

Midway through January, you may need to visit a family member in hospital. The complaint is probably nothing serious. Still, make it a point to go. The patient will appreciate your presence. While you are there, be careful in the parking area. Someone may scratch your car. Or if you are on foot, nearly run you over. Look twice before you venture into the street, especially if the weather is bad. If there is a minor accident, be careful when exchanging insurance details. Mercury's influence still hangs over us till the 25th. All you need to do is remember the three Mercury Rx monkeys. "Say nothing," "Sign nothing" and "Read everything twice."

As the Sheep year limps across the finish line, the retrograde is attacking communications systems. Your phone starts sending texts in Mandarin. Your computer decides to spell-check in German. Your email is hijacked by a third world banking scam. When you phone for help, the voice recognition network thinks you are speaking Swahili. Your path through the mire is long, arduous and inescapable. Power down all of your technology, if possible. Pour yourself a strong drink and hibernate until the 25th. The Monkey year is about to begin! And that, Tiger, will bring you a barrelful of excitement.

RABBIT

12 MONTHS OF FORECAST FOR THE RABBIT IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2105 OVERVIEW FOR RABBITS

Discriminating Rabbit,

Author's note: Certain Asian cultures call your sign CAT. As they use RABBIT only, I have been prevailed upon by my Chinese readers to switch from CAT to RABBIT. So if I used to call you Cat. From now on, I will be addressing you as Rabbit. sw

The Sheep is one of the Rabbit's most fervent allies. Not that Sheep are as refined or highly-strung as you, but your characters complement each other – the way beige goes with tones of brown or sage green. The atmosphere in the Sheep year suits you. And even the most successful, rich or famous of Sheep long to have the practical side of their life taken care of. Cat/Rabbits make excellent caretakers who look after their own and other peoples' goods and chattel with a cautious eye. Hence, the Sheep feels safe in your company and is willing more or less to fall into your lap and let you do the organizing so that he or she might gambol through a work day safe in the knowledge that his financial picture is being overseen by someone competent.

You tend to complain a bit and suffer physical ills more imaginary than real. The Sheep understands you, listens to your wailings and even takes you seriously when others won't. You should spend this year accruing not only interest from your precious offshore bank accounts, but also gaining ground in your personal life. The issues and unresolved problems that you were encountering early in the Sheep year will dissolve as though by magic after the month of March. Things quiet down in your home life because you can breathe easier and feel less fraught and defensive than you did last year. sw

RABBIT January 2015

You are likely to feel fatigued in the week following the western New Year. Your indulgences over the holidays, even if they were minor, could have thrown your system out of whack. Try doing a brief juice fast, just over a weekend, to cleanse your body. All you need is a juicer and some fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Do this over a weekend where you don't have any other plans. You may feel even wearier at first. But after a couple of days, you will find that you have regained vitality. When the juice fast is through and you start a new week with renewed vigor, you will find you are more productive as well.

Back in 2013 or 2012, you completed some kind of creative project. You released it into the world, only to be disappointed in how it was received. Now suddenly that project gains positive attention. You will naturally feel pleased that this child of your imagination receives its moment in the sun. This turn of events may also result in another stream of income for you. Buy yourself some kind of gift to celebrate. If you have enough funds, perhaps you can plan a trip to an exotic venue. Why not take your new sweetheart along? Nothing like a steamy foreign place to raise the level of passion between two lovers.

You may receive an intriguing proposal around the 16th of this month. A close family member, perhaps one of your grown children or a sibling, may suggest that the two of you start some kind of project together. It may be a creative endeavor, perhaps one of you taking photographs or doing the illustrations for a book and the other supplying the words. Or it might be a small business of some sort. Do not make your decision based solely on your affection for this relative. Think carefully about whether the two of you balance each other in terms of practical abilities.

The Sheep year starts on February 19th. Get ready to indulge your creativity and grow your personal fortune through artistic endeavors.

RABBIT February 2015

Welcome to the Sheep year, Rabbit! This epoch begins on February 19th with you yearning for a retreat. The Horse year left you trampled and close to burnout. Exhaustion has wilted your whiskers. But your inner spirit is a lot stronger than your soft exterior suggests. Your expertise lies in knowing how to maintain balance. That equilibrium enables you to survive situations that would finish off much larger animals!

By the middle of the month, you will be firing on all cylinders again. You are a born planner-ahead. You don't particularly fancy surprises. You're basically a placid, peace-loving person. Of course, your dread of conflict sometimes gets in the way of your progress. Don't want to alarm you but February will bring a bevy of nuisances into your path. Nothing life-threatening. So you can put away the garlic necklace and ditch the silver cross! But certain snags related to your home or place of business may crop up. These obstacles. Could be anything from a leaky faucet to a broken windowpane. To best deal with these minor irritating interruptions, take a step back from the situation. Use your logic to develop a solution.

As March threatens to usher February out the door, it is time to once again examine your overall health. You are the type who always has a new minor problem with your body. Some would call you a bit of a hypochondriac. But in reality, you are merely hypersensitive. Where one person might see a scratch, you see an infection-prone fissure. This manifests itself in a tendency to overreact. Nonetheless, heed your intuition. Flu germs and viruses love to expand their social circles at this time. Give your vulnerable immune system the weapons it needs to protect itself. Use vitamins, supplements and herbal teas to cleanse and guard against intrusive microbes. Dare I mention the minimum of five fruits and vegetables we are all supposed to be ingesting daily? No, wine does not count towards your fruit intake! If you must have it, keep it to one glass a day. And supplement your diet with citrus and greens.

RABBIT March 2015

By March, your health and energy levels will have rebounded. Still, something seems a little off. Perhaps

you have a mild case of *ennui*? General discontent. Wouldn't a mini makeover (or an addition to your tired wardrobe) be just the thing to perk you up? Great idea! If you can swing it financially, splurge.

Halfway through the month, you have pinpointed just the person to help with your makeover. He or she is a strong-minded friend with an excellent eye and firm opinions on absolutely everything. Not everyone's cup of tea. But you can appreciate the value of their innate sense of style. Bribe them with the promise of lunch at their favorite watering hole. With their approval, you can be positive that you have chosen the perfect haircut and purchased the ideal duds to turn you into a svelte, seductive Rabbit. Just in time, too, because there's a distinct possibility of romance in late March.

Could that new look have worked some magic on the boy or girl next door or on that sexy new neighbor in the flat above yours? (The one who has barely acknowledged your existence since they moved in.) Oddly enough, after your change in appearance, they are holding the door for you when you are laden with parcels. Or they waylay you in the corridor with a contrived reason to chat. This may be a fun avenue to explore. Your first date should be something a Sheep would approve of. Somewhere romantic yet unusual, like that artsy dive with live music. Your new coiffure and attire will sweep your target off his or her feet. If you already have a significant other curled up on the couch at home, why not add a little spice to the romance now. Take your old "boo" out to that sexy dive. Or send the kids to your mom's for the weekend. Plan a couple child-free days full of your favorite music and candlelit dinners. Even the best relationships need a recharge now and then.

RABBIT April 2015

April leaps out of the starting gate with a significant event. Though you may not be directly involved, this incident will rattle your cage. In all likelihood, one of your loved ones has undergone an extreme change in philosophy. Perhaps your mother has decided to divorce dear old dad and run off with her Pilates instructor. Or a co-worker or close friend has finally announced he or she is gay. These changes may not agree with you. But they are real and require some rumination on your part.

Last month, you revamped the outer you. Now it is time to scrutinize your inner self. You are examining the random nature of this life. How can you rise above the things you cannot control and instigate your own metamorphosis? You must learn to accept what you cannot change. *But*, you must also continue striving to improve what you *can* change. Incorporating a new creative activity can help you in your quest. Some options are: meditation, classes in sacred chanting or taking up Zumba or the Tango.

Wood Sheep years are about inspiration and creativity - the perfect time for some cleansing of the spirit as well as of the mind and body. Scour the dusty corners of your soul. Open the blinds and let the light in. Your new contemplative behavior might raise a few eyebrows or inspire some caustic remarks. But no one, not even your dearest loved ones, has the right to criticize where you go to find answers. If beating drums at a sweat lodge helps you more than kneeling in your childhood place of worship, just do it.

In the rush of your quest to find inner peace, you may have neglected your body's physical needs. Late in April, listen to what your body is telling you. As the psychic reads her tea leaves, so too must you examine your internal symptoms. Something in your diet is not agreeing with you. The problem could be an intolerance to a chemical food additive. This you can suss out yourself and eliminate. But if the discomfort persists for more than a week, you will want to see a bona fide food allergist.

RABBIT May 2015

In the early part of May, a crisp breeze begins to gently blow through your life. This wafts in some refreshing changes at work. New faces, new ideas. Perhaps a move to new premises. Unfortunately, for the moment, this kindly wind does not carry with it any financial boons. You will have to wait for that raise or promotion. Never mind. We are still in the early days of the Wood Sheep year. The Sheep's good

fortune is only just starting to rub off on you.

But...after May 18th, when Mercury turns toward the sun (until June 11th), misunderstandings threaten to interfere with your work life. Be ready for every form of communication to become fuzzy. Such is life during these tiresome Mercury retrogrades. Perhaps you misinterpret a memo and arrive in formal attire at the company picnic. Or your carefully saved business emails suddenly vanish. Electronics are particularly sensitive to Mercury Rx. Back up all your files. If you are typing something, save your work frequently. These snags don't only stem from you. Some members of your entourage may send out confusing vibes. You wonder what the heck they are trying to convey in their cryptic online messages. Even if you press them for more clarity, the meaning of their posts may still elude you. Roll with the punches. Flexibility is the only way to deal with fickle Mercury.

During this juncture, you will find it increasingly difficult to believe in matters mystical. Your favorite pastor, priest or life coach is beginning to sound a bit hollow. There's no point in trying to adjust to these changes. Until Mercury returns to normal on June 11, you'll have to make the best of your skepticism. Give the guru a month off. Stay home from church until your mind settles down. This is a peak time to make plans for the future. Also, engage in some non-verbal cuddling with your honey.

RABBIT June 2015

June starts off rather sluggishly. Until the 11th, when Mercury goes direct, you should be active in the business realm. From finalizing manuscripts to making progress on your building or renovation endeavors, try to complete unfinished projects. If there is paperwork to submit, do so now. Are there people to phone for appointments or letters to write to request a permit? Get on it. It is important to iron out these details at June's outset.

Once the second week of the month rolls around, matters will begin to improve. You might find those missing emails somewhere in an unmarked folder in the bowels of your hard drive. How did they get there? Why couldn't you find them before? You may never know. Shrug it off. Blame it on Mercury. The important thing is that you have them again. In the third week, be prepared for some major changes. Unbeknownst to you, this about-face has been brewing for a long time. A decision you made many moons ago is returning to bite you in the rear end. Or kiss you there. Such is karma!

This incident probably relates to family, tradition, old acquaintances, or heirlooms. Yes, you read that correctly. You could be about to inherit property or a lump sum of cash from a deceased relative or friend. On the other hand, you might be about to face the wrath of someone who has been harboring anger against you for many years. If you are invited to a party or soirée, be sure to attend. Here, you will bump into this character from your past. Even if you must face their long-harbored ire, your squabble will not come to much. You flee conflict, remember? You can easily endure an exchange of mildly hostile verbiage. Go ahead. Vent your sour feelings - with diplomacy. Even though you prefer to avoid confrontation, this event will clear the air; and you will have a new vantage point from which to face the future. And a clearer conscience to go along with.

RABBIT July 2015

July brings out the artist in you. The creative Wood Sheep juices have begun to flow through you, carrying fresh inspiration. You are moved to try your hand at something artistic. This might entail writing slam poetry, learning to play the guitar or making stained glass panels. Find a crafty activity that requires you to use both your hands and the right (inventive) side of your brain. This process will enrich your mind. Under the auspicious Sheep year energy, you may even make some money from your newfound talent! Perhaps a wealthy patron will notice your lovely stained glass efforts. Like a young Da Vinci, you may receive a commission to make him or her a set for their patio doors. Or maybe your musician friend will

see potential in using your slam poem as a song lyric. Don't be afraid to try something new and daring!

It is definitely time to expand your horizons. Take an evening class. Better yet, start your own class! Perhaps a sketching club? Venturing out into the countryside can be a splendid way to make new friends. What could be more pleasant than spending a weekend lolling under a tree, sketching trees and cows? On the way home, stop off at a quaint rural restaurant for a long, lazy meal. If you have designated a sober driver to take your group into the country, indulge in a beer or a glass of wine. Chat up your new cronies. To complete your July self-renewal, you might want to consider taking up a not-too-taxing sport. Art may expand the mind. But sitting all day will expand your *derrière*. You sociable, people-pleasing Rabbits are not much interested in aggressive competitive sports. But hiking with an affable group is just strenuous enough to keep excess weight off. Rambling through nature will also calm your unexplained anxieties and remaining *ennui*. Besides, you get to chat with engaging new people whilst striding through nature. Such an excursion is the best of two worlds: the social and the athletic.

RABBIT August 2015

Keep an eye out for itchy fingers in August. Someone may try to steal from you. Please don't go dashing to the locksmith or clogging up the police department's phone lines. This larceny of which I speak does not appear to be a literal burglary. You won't wake up one morning to discover that the family silver has vanished. In mid-August, you will be dealing with a more unique kind of theft. Someone in your work life has dishonest motives. In the second week of August, they will begin to be extraordinarily friendly toward you. This change of attitude should raise some red flags. What is their ulterior motive? Not snatching your car or your significant other. Instead, this "theft" involves pinching your ideas.

This "friend" of yours has always been the taciturn type—somewhat standoffish. But all of a sudden, they are behaving out of character. They seem too friendly, too confiding. They obviously want information from you. Hopefully, you have been concealing this data in various caches. Chances are that you have as you do not trust people easily. You already have your suspicions about the potential thief's identity. As it is not your style to engage in open confrontation, steer clear of inciting any conflict. Instead, hide all your notes and any lists of clients or prospects. A safe deposit box would work. Do not discuss your future plans or your suspicions with anyone. Not even your significant other. Information leaks are everywhere.

Above all, as the month draws closer to its end, remain outwardly friendly with the suspect. Beneath your tranquil facade, keep your eyes peeled for hints of his or her plan. You have built a good deal of success this year. So keep your head. This is not the time to blow everything you have worked for. The tension from this cat-and-mouse game may set your system off-kilter. De-stress by continuing those meditation classes and participating in the walking group. After the 25th, the culprit in question will realize they have been barking up the wrong Rabbit. Little by little, they will cease and desist. Both in trying to become your bosom best friend and in planning to divest you of your dreams. You can breathe that sigh of relief now.

RABBIT September 2015

September is an optimal period for relaxing with your loved ones and getting things done things about the house. Home maintenance has been on your mind of late. There's a lot to be accomplished in the garden as well as inside your home. You (or your spouse or roommate) are dying to repaint and redecorate the living room. Of course, Rabbits are ace delegators. Therefore, it should be no problem to organize a team of friends or family to help with the more cumbersome (backbreaking) projects. You can always pay them off with a party at the end of their duties. And while they're painting, spackling or pulling weeds, keep the fridge stocked with soft drinks, juices and beer. Invite the worker bees to help themselves. Get these projects out of the way before September 17. Mercury is about to go retrograde again. Could will throw a

wrench in your plans. Don't give up. Just be more cautious of details.

The middle of September is more or less defined by Mercury retrograde. This slowdown should not affect your love life. If anything, it gives you an excuse to stay at home and cuddle under the blankets with your honey. The problems which arise during Mercury's voyage towards the sun are more related to electronics, appliance breakdowns and the failure of contract negotiations to come to fruition. After September 17, avoid signing binding documents. Working on prenuptials, wills, business agreements, or real estate transactions? Best to wait to affix your autograph to them. Instead, use this down time (through October 9) to chart your life's next steps. Engage in long talks with your mate. If there is a certain topic the two of you have been avoiding, get it out in the open. Figure out itineraries and calculate budgets for your next holiday trip.

At the tail end of September, you will hear some welcome financial news. Could be that an investment you made years ago is finally paying off? Or perhaps somebody has passed on and left you a hefty chunk of change. Whatever the source, tuck this windfall safely away in your savings account. I recommend taking a modest cut and investing it in some enchanting artwork for that newly redecorated living room. Art bought in a Sheep year greatly appreciates in value over time.

RABBIT October 2015

Mercury will not go direct until the 9th. This might make the first week of October rather choppy. Do you have too many balls in the air? Last month, in a fit of well-meaning insanity, you agreed to accomplish something beyond your capabilities. Even then, you knew you were biting off more than you could chew. But you were so flattered by the request, you acquiesced. And tried to convince yourself that you could handle the increased workload. Now, in early October, you are in so far over your head that you can't see the surface anymore. There's no shame in admitting defeat when you've truly given your all. Everyone has limits. Confess your error and get on with what you were doing before you goofed.

Overextending yourself is not the only thing driving you to pop antacids four at a time. Midway through the month, you realize that someone dear to you has gotten caught up in a very unsuitable alliance. As a result, you have morphed into a stormy sea swirling with apprehension and anxiety. The undesirable union that has you so uptight might involve a young person who has fallen in love with a nefarious character. Or perhaps a close relative is getting involved in some shady business dealings. In either case, your intuition is correct. This is not a good match. Use your innate diplomatic skills to bail them out of dangerous waters.

In late October, vehicular problems are set to rain on your parade. A rattle emanates from under your dashboard. From a place that should definitely not be rattling. You have looked everywhere for the source of the problem. Even perused online threads for do-it-yourself car repairs. Fearful of making things worse, try riding your bike to work. You will give the environment a tiny reason to celebrate. Plus, you will get some much-needed exercise. And once you take the car in to the shop, expect some good news. Your car's hitch is easily fixed. On top of that, the mechanic tells you this one is on the house. Think someone has a crush?

RABBIT November 2015

Early November's theme is out with the old (junk) and in with the new. You have accumulated too much. Too much of what, you ask? Clothing you've outgrown. Books you no longer read. Gadgets which have outlived their usefulness. Even some relationships that no longer suit your needs. Take a weekend to cleanse your life of clutter.

The romance that seemed so enticing year's dawning is starting to look less appealing. The scarlet roses of passion are beginning to pale. Your sixth sense whispers that infidelity (actual or desired) could be the

problem. Who has been (or wants to be) unfaithful to whom is hard to say. Did you hear some gossip about your lover consorting with another? Or have you yourself met someone who better fits your ideal of a long-term partner? There were strong indications early on that you would make plenty of new friends this year. Because of your new interests, you've developed friendships with like-minded people. Could it be you have noticed some potential in that pool? Perhaps the time for a replacement lover is nigh. Don't break things off in a hurry. Discuss your hesitations with your flame. You will be pleasantly surprised by the results. Both of you have been feeling the strain.

As November ticks away, a close friend or family member is going to experience an unexpected success in their line of work. Perhaps it is a young relative who has finally landed their first post-college job. Or maybe the black sheep of the family will finally get some recognition for their talents. Do you have a sibling who has always lived in your shadow? Well, now it is his or her turn to bask in the sunlight. Your kinsperson's achievement will bolster your own spirit. In a way that your own victories do not. This may puzzle you. So ask yourself one question. Would you rather be gigantically successful - and alone? Or permanently mildly successful and close to all your extended family members and friends?

RABBIT December 2015

November was a month for purging. December will be the complete opposite. Abundance and the generosity of others will follow you everywhere you go. A fairy godmother might as well be watching over you, spritzing her sparkly magic dust on everything you touch. The only warning I have for December is not to open any unusual or dicey emails. This season, the viruses are aimed at electronics rather than human immune systems. If a friend sends you a "MUST LOOK!" link that seems completely out of character, do not "look" (or click)! At least not until you have run a thorough scan of the link in question. And if you are still suspicious, ask your friend or acquaintance for an explanation. Don't be shy. Their account may have been hacked and they the last to notice.

Other than potential malware, the month should be a delightful experience. Expect surprise gifts as people begin to show more appreciation for the positive difference you make in their lives. The boss might call you in to confirm that you are finally getting that raise you have been hoping for. Your children send you tickets to come visit them over the holidays. To top it off, the new friends you made this year have all sorts of pleasant plans for holiday parties. This month life feels good. Life *is* good. Your bank account is plump and healthy. As you wrap your home-made stained glass trinket boxes and herbal teas in eco-friendly recycled gift wrap, you may find yourself humming sentimental old tunes. The month unfolds in mellow peace and goodwill from all your friends and family. There's even a suggestion that one of the friendships that began this year is turning into a very close relationship, just as I suspected in November. Go to the farmers market. But a spring of mistletoe and hang it in a propitious spot. Then you can lay a smacker on your crush with impunity. After all, 'tis the season.

RABBIT January 2016

January is another excellent month for you, Rabbit. A powerful energy tingles in the air. Good luck springs up around you. Is someone expecting a baby this month? Is it you? Do you have a new grandchild in the works? Or have you finally succumbed to your urges to coddle and cuddle and bought yourself a furry friend "baby?" There is no better way to ring in a new year than with the miraculous celebration of new life. Of course, you may have trouble remembering that fact when you're mopping up a leaky infant's messes in a few months time. But at the moment, everything is teacups and butterflies. And lots of tiny trinkets and outfits for the newborn.

That fertile wave of energy has a decidedly feminine touch to it this month. This is more than an urge to make babies. Your hobbies take a more tender tone. Gentle melodies and pastel colors will feel

incredibly appealing all the way through the end of the Chinese year. You have an intense desire for everything floral and soft. Your *compadres* will notice this reflected in your clothing and your decor. Even our Mr. Rabbits may surprise their friends by buying pale mint green sheets for their bedroom or throwing a few flowery cushions on their old leather couch.

Water is another feminine element that will attract you in January. If you are a Southern Hemisphere Rabbit, you will be off to soak in the sun on hot summery beaches. Meanwhile, you Northern Rabbits will have to make do with the local indoor swimming pools. Or cave in and start planning a holiday somewhere with palm trees and tropical waters. If all of that is beyond your budget, or you simply cannot take enough time off work, put on some tropical music, light a few floral scented candles and go soak in your bathtub. Add a few delectable fragrant herbs to the water. Lie back and enjoy the sweet sensation of all remaining tension in your muscles seeping away.

DRAGON

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR DRAGONS IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR DRAGONS

Dashing Dragon,

You and your kind are a perennial hit with Sheep. Why? Because Sheep/Goats need your dazzle and power. And they are willing to take drastic measures to obtain access to them. Sheep are all about creativity and zany, wigged-out notions. They love ease and long for comfort. They dream of languishing in abundance - preferably someone else's abundance. But they are not usually able to secure those pipe dreams for themselves. So when a strong, capable Dragon comes sashaying along singing a happy tune, Sheep prick up their ears. They keep their eyes peeled for inroads which will show them how to benefit from the Dragon's willingness to lead them forward and even bankroll their bizarre schemes.

Sheep come up with more good ideas in a given minute than a Dragon can wrap his proud, scaly head around. Sheep don't mind being humble. Modest, even. But they never want to have to compete or impose their will in the big bad world. They prefer to feed the strong leaders who bear those responsibilities. So, as one of the aforementioned strong leaders, your job in a Sheep year is to take the reins without appearing to do so. Run the show from the wings. Let the Sheep have his day. He or she will thank you for ever after. You will be showered with love and devotion for a lifetime! sw

DRAGON January 2015

The commencement of a New Year on the western calendar may inspire you to perform a blizzard of cleaning. You might tackle some area of your home or work life which has become a bit disorganized. Maybe you finally realized you will never again fit into those clothes from high school which have occupied the bulging closet in your spare room for more than a decade. No use punishing yourself for not

being the same size as you were at 18. Give those clothes either to a charity shop or to a young friend or relative who may actually see them as vintage gear.

In the same cleansing mode, you may finally decide to go through those files which have been collecting dust in the attic. Best to decide to throw out old paperwork. Organize those piles of photos which are all sticking together in those old cartons. And finally, make sure to protect yourself from possible identity theft by either burning or shredding any documents which detail your private information.

Around the 12th of this month, you may be hit with an unsettling realization. Some mental block shifts slightly. You now perceive that a long-standing grudge you have nursed stems not from the other person behaving badly but from your own stubbornness. You could not see that you were the offender - not the offende. Several years may have passed since you were in touch with this individual. But it's never too late to make amends. Look them up online. Send a brief message of reconciliation. Acknowledge your mistake simply and humbly, without excuses or accusations. Even if she or he does not reply, you will feel better for having proffered the olive branch.

Unless your checking account is looking particularly plump these days, you may want to hide your credit cards toward the end of the Year of the Horse. Freeze them on the bottom of the remotest ice cube tray in the back of your freezer. If not, you could make some very dumb impulsive purchases of items you do not really need. Anything you buy at this time could seem quite silly to you within just a few weeks. Steer clear of any stores or websites which tend to be temptation zones for you. By all means, avoid breaking into your savings or investment accounts to satisfy your bizarre January spending urges.

DRAGON February 2015

As the Sheep year roars out of the gate, you find yourself on a creative cloud nine. Your present fixation seems to be on a vegetable garden. Not some piddling little patch. A garden project. which could be a local community land share project. Or a school-funded, grow-your-lunch poly tunnel. It might even be a feed-the-world overseas adventure! Whatever the case, you will be having tremendous fun. Organizing. designing and harvesting new life. And in the bargain, you will make fantastic connections. People who could become lifelong friends.

One of those people might even offer you a job. Not as a gardener. This part-time volunteer is made of money. And they did not get it from clipping hedges. They have had their eye on you. They like the way you combine inspiration with Dragon common sense. Mr. or Mrs. Moneybags wants you for an organizational role. Or an administrative gig. If you want to nail that job interview, watch for pesky health flare-ups. Worrying signs that you are developing a sinus or ear infection. Get yourself to the doctor. Such an illness could (literally) disrupt your sense of balance.

Boom! Just as your sense of balance returns, a long-distance phone call about knocks you off your feet. The message could be from an ex. Or an estranged relative. He or she deliberately (and painfully) cut you out of their life. Their motives are difficult to interpret. They seem to be waving a white flag. and behaving as though nothing ever happened. Could this person want to start afresh? Hear them out. But protect your own gooey center. Don't lap up some syrupy bait you will regret having fallen for. Be pleasant, yet non-committal. Let them talk. Listen to their reasons for having abandoned you. After their impassioned monologue, ask for some time to think things over. Reopening this relationship could leave you vulnerable to the same problems you experienced the first time around. If the person was very precious to you, go for it. But watch for red flags. Know when to take a step back so you don't get rejected again.

DRAGON March 2015

As March enters the picture, a relative is visiting. His/her stay was supposed to be temporary. A few days

asylum while the embers cool from a roaring fight with his/her spouse. But the days drag on without any sign of their leaving. This extra presence is beginning to feel like a life sentence. There is another reason why you keep tapping your foot and checking your watch. A fire is burning somewhere. And the smoke is emanating from your bedroom. A thrilling character has recently swept you off your scaly feet. Or maybe your long-term love has recently begun to press all the right buttons. And barely days later, your (by now) built-in relation is snoring on the couch in front of your television set. He/she could even be raiding your fridge or using your computer.

The frustration is making you a little crazy. Your patience is waning. You keep snarling at everyone. You even lost your cool and started shouting at the supermarket. Over artichokes. My advice? Ditch the damn artichokes. Buy some roses instead. Go home and give them to the guest. Then, stuff the visitor and their luggage into a taxi and point the driver toward their own house. This person needs to deal with his relationship. You need to enjoy yours. In fact, you might well phone the cab service again. Change the locks. Turn off your cell phone. Pack a light bag, grab your squeeze and head to an undisclosed location.

At work, a methodical person has asked for your help. They have the long-term vision. You have the enthusiasm and fire to bring it to life. So why are you going to refuse? You know you make a good team. Are you afraid that by agreeing to pair up, you might limit your own horizons? Do you see this person as potentially holding you back? Yes, the two of you are very different. But you compliment each other nicely. Together, you can get the job done better than either of you can manage alone. Give this partnership a chance.

DRAGON April 2015

Long hours and ill health might have reduced you to ribs and sinew. You would love a return to your shape and muscle tone of yore. For that, add some protein to your diet. Avoid all empty calories. No packaged foods or takeout. Sugar will not give you energy. Sugar will only make you crash. Eat fresh foods. Cook at home. Drink more water. If you don't work out now, it's time to begin. In family circles, an older female keeps avoiding you. She is not angry with you. She is actually suffering from depression or some form of melancholy. She needs your support - not your interference. Sadly, there's not much you can do to help her find the way back to the surface. Keep an eye on her from afar. Or phone her doctor for advice.

Halfway through April, there are potential fireworks at work. One of your superiors is clearly attracted to you. You are not interested. That makes things awkward. Even worse, his or her obvious attentions are stirring up jealousy among the other employees. There are whispers that you are milking this infatuation. Could that be linked to your recent pay raise? You must admit that the timing looks suspicious. Find out who started the rumor. Look first to your co-workers. Hell hath no fury like a rival overlooked for promotion. Do not let the resentment fester. Get a middleman to invite all the whisperers together for drinks or a meal. Then calmly broach the topic. Keep it light. Be amused and amusing. Make it obvious how ludicrous their accusations are. Nothing shrinks a rumor faster than laughter.

In the last weeks of April, you may receive unfortunate tidings of a death. A distant relative or old family friend has passed. You hate funerals, but there is no way to avoid this one. People will be expecting you there. And you might finally be glad you attended. You may bump into an old friend. There is a lot of gossip to catch up on. By the way, keep track of your phone. There is an indication you will lose something electronic. You definitely do not want to comb through empty churches and dark graveyards looking for a lost cell.

DRAGON May 2015

Dragon, you are a one (wo)man powerhouse in early May. You have extra money to play with. Perhaps

you won big in a raffle or at Bingo Night. Or someone who owes you money has finally repaid their debt. Celebrate with a shopping spree. Who not add some new fashionable goodies to your wardrobe? Buy stylish items that make a statement. Something typically Dragonesque which screams, "Here I am!" Haunt the sale racks. Find bargains. That way you can afford the splurge and still have some money left over. You will be needing another new look next month. Wait and see.

On May 18th, Mercury goes retrograde. Your emails refuse to download. Even worse, you cannot remember your password to log in. When you finally manage to get them back, they are ninety percent spam. Hundreds of requests for money from strange people peddling even stranger wares. Delete the lot, but be careful. Mercury is not making anything easy. I guarantee there is one genuinely important message hidden in the horde of quacks. Take care not to delete it accidentally. It holds merry tidings. Your body is not helping your muddled mind right now. Stave off flus and viruses with vitamin C and Echinacea.

Thought your retrograde blues were finished? Sorry. Your mother's pet has run off. You will spend all day putting up posters or trying to post pictures of the lost cat or dog on local web pages. Since Mercury is still retrograde obstacles appear out of nowhere. Expect to run out of printer ink. Or a website will crash. With any luck, someone will find Mom's furry darling. If not...let's face the truth. That thing was a demon from hell. Your hatred was bitter and mutual. Go to a shelter and find a new critter to console your mother. A sweet puppy or a purring kitten. Something that likes you, for a change.

DRAGON June 2015

Until Mercury goes direct on June 11, communications will continue to go awry. There was an important note pinned on the fridge or board at work. It fell off on cleaning day and vanished. You know it held a vital date or phone number. A doctor's appointment. A board meeting. A work inspection. But no one can remember exactly what. Volunteer your services for the unenviable search party. Disembowel the vacuum cleaner. Turn out the waste paper bin. Eventually will you find the note in some perfectly unlikely spot. Under a rug? In the bath tub? Never mind. You found it.

At home, you are trying to start a do-it-yourself project. The biggest obstacle is finding the time. A sibling keeps phoning. Ridiculous, boring, pointless conversations. You want to scream and smash the phone on the counter. But they keep calling because they need advice. So knock out two birds with one stone. Invite him or her over. They can hammer and paint alongside you. And the two of you can talk things out. He or she gets free therapy. You get those new shelves and the bathroom paint touched up. Winners all round. Do avoid falling for that bright orange for the bathroom. I know it looks tempting on the paint sample, but you will hate it on the walls. Trust me on this. Neon tangerine mornings are not your style. Dragons love flamboyance. But there are limits.

Remember those clothes you bought in May? At the end of June, you will need new additions. Single Dragons may be joining a dating club. Paired Dragons will be considering a new couples' activity. Something sophisticated. Maybe a dance class. Or a foreign movie club. Perfect places to show off those new duds. For unattached Dragons, debut your fresh outfit in your dating site profile picture. Even if you don't find your perfect match, you will have fun. You might even manage a steamy weekend at the end of June. The assignation in question may not be with your usual type. But sometimes opposites not only attract - they click!

DRAGON July 2015

Your car is long overdue a trip to the mechanic. Your fridge is near empty. Your house plants are dying of thirst. What is wrong with you? You are never this negligent. Truth is, your mind is elsewhere. You have been pondering a new professional venture. With some development capital, this start-up could become your full-time passion. But at this stage, it is more of a part-time outlet for your artistic side. You have

already laid the groundwork. It is time to take the next step which is to find the money. But you find yourself stalling. But this is your baby. An idea you have daydreamed about for years. Attempting to actualize it means that you risk seeing it fail. Stop dithering and take the plunge. Trust your instincts. Your idea is no doubt a winner. Knock on every door.

If your business plan needs additional funding, mid-July is the ideal juncture to increase the balances in your bank accounts. Clear out any old junk and sell it online. Or have an old-fashioned garage sale. Peruse the wanted ads. Does your garage contain the very item someone else is desperately seeking? Are you hoarding? Time to dig through the storage boxes. Treasures lurk within. Be careful of small containers that appear empty. Little wooden boxes or jars. A watch may have been forgotten inside. A timepiece with great sentimental value. Selling it will take courage. But then you need the loot.

In late July, you are debating adding a water feature to your home or garden. But everything you see in the shops is tacky or overpriced. Why not make your own decoration? Thousands of ideas and accompanying instructional videos abound on the internet. Craft something unique and funky. Have a real electrician properly install the power supply. Electricity is not for amateurs. If this is an outdoor feature, watch where you dig. You just might discover something interesting. An ancient bit of local history. A bone whistle, some pottery shards, a few rare coins. Your backyard treasure might end up plastering you on the front of the local newspaper.

DRAGON August 2015

A while back, someone came to you for advice. Regrettably, your sage recommendation only exacerbated the situation. You were wrong. Now they blame you. Do not buy into that emotional blackmail. You gave your honest opinion. If your solution did not work out for them, it's not your fault. Apologize for steering them wrong if you must. Why not take your mind off this all this social turbulence by spiriting your significant other away for a weekend getaway? Or treat yourself to a day trip. Usually people think beaches and nature when they hear the word "getaway." But on this occasion, I prescribe an urban excursion. Somewhere vibrant. Book tickets for the latest show. Or, dine out somewhere off the beaten path.

Halfway through the month, the spirit moves you to take up a new sport. Pick something challenging. Weightlifting or Squash or Spinning perhaps. Use your competitive urge to compete with yourself. At work, the focus is on elephants. You know what I am talking about. The pachyderm in the room that everyone notices, but no one dares speak of? This particular elephant concerns a co-worker with a delicate problem. Body odor or bad breath or booze. When they enter a room, people suddenly leave. Your coworkers are trying to nominate you (Brave Dragon) to broach the subject with him or her. Remember the faulty advice you gave a friend earlier this month? My advice? Butt out. Ask your pals to elect somebody else to tackle this one.

Someone is planning an end-of-the-month wedding or big bash. You'll be asked to pitch in. You will need to help with lighting or decorating the event. Your duties could range from the truly artistic to the tedious. You might be called in to craft homemade candles for the tables. Or else you volunteer to spend a few hours filling balloons with helium. Whatever the task, you will be surrounded by some favorite loved ones. The mood should be as bubbly as the sparkling wine.

DRAGON September 2015

September asks you to play the role of negotiator. People do ask your opinion a lot. This time it's about two friends who are going into business together. Their fundamental idea is sound. But the partnership is unbalanced. The dominant character is a way too impulsive. And spendy with money. Not a good sign. The creative cohort actually has the better business skills. But he or she is a dreamer. These two need to

give each other's opinions equal weight. Otherwise, the collaboration will fall apart. And that is where you come in. You know and love both parties. Take control. Help them fashion a foundation they can build upon.

In the thick of September, love infuses your entire being. But can we really call this sensation "love?" Lust is more accurate. And it is all directed towards a snazzy new car or even a scooter or motorbike. Your heart beats a little faster every time you pad past the show room. There it sits, sleek and stylish. You press your nose against the windowpane like a child at a toy shop. But the object of your adulation is no toy. Gape away, but don't touch. We lurch into another Mercury retrograde on the 17th. Which makes this a bad time to be signing contracts. That includes new vehicle deals. Watch out for a dodgy food bill around this point. You may have been accidentally charged twice at a restaurant. Or given an extra zero on the total.

As the month culminates, you may be the recipient of some adulation yourself. Because you are such a generous spirit, you helped a friend get the money to realize a dream. They had always wanted to travel to a foreign country and study the language. But they simply could not afford it on the money they had saved. So you started a Kickstarter program for them with a hefty goal which would permit them to settle in Argentina or Italy to stay for one year and become a student of the language. They will return now at the end of September. Their ability to communicate in the second language will impress you. They will moreover credit you with being responsible for their newfound skill.

DRAGON October 2015

Until Mercury goes direct on the 9th, please don't send any greeting cards or post letters. Messages posted this week can go awry. Words get misconstrued. If it's an occasion, instead of mangled words, send flowers. You may receive an unusual gift yourself in October. Perhaps a spa trip. This might not be your thing. But go along with it anyway. The massage and Jacuzzi treatments are worth the detour from your routine. Best to avoid mud pack treatments. If you are allergic to one of the ingredients in the glop, mud packs can give you hives.

Mid-October, someone at the shopping mall may fall for you. Literally. A dark-haired shopper trips on the escalator as you come up behind. Somewhere amidst the apologies and checking for injuries, you will both see the funny side of the situation. You might be destined to become good friends. Why were you at the store in the first place? To buy a gift of jewelry for your honey. Maybe silver, maybe gold. Use your imagination. Put yourself in your sweetie's shoes. Do they really want another trinket or a new Swatch? You can surely come up with a better idea.

In late October, packing and moving boxes loom large in your life. Maybe an older child is moving out. Or back in. This move has you unsettled. Relax. It will be fine. You may find a box of old photos or an ancient album while packing. The memories will take you back. To some good places. And also to some bad. You might find yourself making a phone call later. To one of the people in the photos. You feel you owe them an apology. From an incident when you were both much younger. Your intentions are benevolent. But this person gives you the cold shoulder. He or she doesn't need any reminders. They moved on long ago. Perhaps you should too. Do not disturb the present by reviving bitterness from the past.

DRAGON November 2015

You are planning on taking a train trip in early November. Or maybe you are picking up someone who is arriving by rail. Watch out for a woman at the station. She will be the lady in the loud outfit. Carrying a potted plant or flowers. She will "accidentally" bump into you. Dirt and pollen all over your clothes! But this happenstance event is not what it seems. While she is dusting you off, her partner is shaking you

down. He or she will snatch your valuables from right under your nose. Keep that femme fatale at arm's length. Evacuate the scene. You can clean up later. In the next week or so, do not forget that dentist appointment you scheduled. You wrote the date down. But you could have swapped the day and month or reversed a number. In this case, 12 and 21 are so close, yet so far.

The middle of November sees you back at school. But put away the pencils and pens. Your educational comeback will have to wait for another day. A child is in trouble. Caught doing something naughty behind a shed. In your eyes, the institution is making much ado about nothing. Is someone on the school board super narrow-minded? Makes me suspicious. If you keep your ear to the ground for gossip, you may find out that said board member has their own dark secrets. Once you gently remind him/her of that tiny peccadillo, charges will be dropped against the child.

Late November sees you trying to ditch a bad habit. Smoking? Online gambling? Heavy drinking? Bravo! Admitting you have a problem is the first step toward recovery. Keep in mind that there is nothing weak about asking for help. It takes more courage to find the right program than to remain silent. In the last week of the month, you are operating at maximum efficiency. Everything you initiate goes smoothly. Every idea you come up with is a winner. No time for fun. But you don't mind. You are flying high. Relish your soaring success, but keep an eye out for obstacles. There is a fine line between certainty and arrogance. Don't crash and burn because you overlooked the obvious.

DRAGON December 2015

All that smooth success in late November was great for your ego. But not so terrific for your immune system. You are prone to bugs and colds in early December. Could be one of those minor ailments that feels major. If so, even your eyeballs will ache. If you have to buy holiday gifts, do so online. If what you want is not available on the internet, go through your phone book. Someone must owe you a favor. Let them play Santa for you while you are stuck in bed. And do not even bother with the fuss of wrapping. Get reusable gift bags. Put a smile on the environment's face. By mid-month, you will be feeling better. Perhaps not up to dancing the night away. But ready for a few afternoon drinks gatherings with friends.

Around the 15th, do not be surprised to receive a number of unwanted phone calls. Part of a cold-call marketing initiative. You want to turn your phone off. Or drop it down the sink drain. Please refrain. Amongst the numerous irritating calls lurks one call you definitely want to take. Its message concerns an invitation you have been eagerly awaiting. When you hear the voice, butterflies will begin zipping around your stomach. The flirtatious kind, that leave lingering sweet memories. Ignore the sales plugs. Grit your teeth and wait for that inviting message to arrive.

December ends without a whimper. At home or as you visit family, expect to play some old-fashioned games with children. Board games you found when you cleared out your old junk in July. The children will moan and grumble at first. Their generation thinks anything without a battery belongs with the dinosaurs. But they will secretly enjoy themselves almost as much as you will. Watch out for food poisoning at work. Do not be the taste-tester for the canapés or snacks ordered for the end-of-year party! Maybe someone left them out overnight. Remember, bad mayonnaise causes more salmonella outbreaks than fish or chicken.

DRAGON January 2016

Just what you didn't need. Someone has confessed a dark secret to you. From the 5th to the 25th of January, Mercury retrograde returns. You may have trouble keeping confidential information confidential. Score some duct tape. Stretch it across your lips at your first urge to gab. Above all, do not share other peoples' deeply personal details with a soul. God forbid you become the one who blabs about your best friend's abortion. Or that you find yourself suddenly blurting that your immediate boss man gets a full body wax

every month.

Halfway through January, your focus shifts. A person you love and admire is gravely ill. You long to be her savior. Leave that part to her doctors. Instead, ask her what might cheer her up. Then bring her some food she particularly likes or a few magazines on her favorite subjects. By the way, she will recover. Just be there to listen and support her as she climbs free of the malady which gripped her. Mercury retrograde begins to ease, but not without a few last gasps. Minor written mishaps. Typing errors that cause chuckles or start wars. Mixed-up texts. You phone to inquire about buying new software for your computer. Instead, you find yourself talking to a lingerie shop. No wonder they sounded perplexed when you said you needed a stronger firewall!

Near the end of January, you may have a chance to learn more about an unusual art form. A friend in the business needs help. Their partner is on holiday or on sick leave. Could you lend a hand? Why, you would be delighted! You have always wanted to know more about their particular discipline. It could be customizing cars. Or painting henna tattoos. The craft itself is what fascinates you. Though you may never become proficient enough to do it yourself, you will enjoy watching and being the artist's assistant. Such experimentation is a happy way to end the Sheep year. A welcome respite before the Monkey year grabs you by the tail and rattles your scales. Monkeys areimps. Monkey years are impetuous. You are in for an entertaining twelve months ahead.

SNAKE

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR SNAKES IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For :

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE SNAKE

Seductive Snake,

Sheep always find Snakes alluring. But in another way, they can't stand to be too near you. Why? Because you are quietly strong, capable and attractive. And most Sheep are dependent and pessimistic. Deep down, they yearn for you to take care of them. You, of course, are not very willing to take care of much other than your good looks, your favorite charities and your beloved family. So the atmosphere in this Sheep year is lukewarm for Snakes. And if there is anything our slithering friends do not like, it is tepid love. Snakes are cold creatures. They like it hot. Sheep like it comfy. So watch out for the possibility of an irresistible somebody sashaying into your life, eating from your fridge, soaking up your central heating, and generally just nestling in your home until you get ready to chuck them out.

This Sheeply character may well be a beguiling person. You find that you feel sorry for them. You empathize. You invited them to come stay until they got back on their feet. After only a few months, it may become difficult to disentangle them from your household. Take advice from your significant other or a wise close friend. You will want to be diplomatic. But take steps to avoid houseguest meltdown in your well-appointed living room at all costs. sw

SNAKE January 2015

Looks like you are in for a visit from an unexpected foreign guest this month. It is possible this person will be someone you have known for years. However, it is more likely that you will take in a stranger with but a tenuous connection to you. Shortly after the western New Year, you will receive a distress call about this person's need for shelter. Perhaps the child of a friend you made while vacationing years ago

comes to your area on an exchange program. The teen's arrangements for lodging with a family will have fallen through at the last minute. Or you may receive a heavily accented message from the sibling of a friend of your college roommate announcing his/her hotel reservations were lost and there isn't a single room left anywhere in town. You will initially extend your hospitality to this person out of a sense of charity and obligation. However you may find that you enjoy the company of your guest and will do whatever you can to keep them around longer.

A close friend of yours may experience bereavement around the 16th of January. This event may happen quite suddenly as the result of a freak accident. This person is likely to lose someone very important in his/her life. It may be a spouse, a parent or even a child. Offer as much support as you can to your pal during this time of emotional distress. The best medicine against grief is distraction. Take your pal to the movies or theater or get concert tickets or go on a trip - just the two of you - somewhere distracting and fun.

Your property may be the target of vandalism toward the end of January. You will not discover the damage until several days after it occurs. Someone may spray paint on the back wall of your house. Perhaps you will find a broken window on your garden shed or garage. Or somebody might scratch the passenger side of your car while it is in a parking garage. Make sure your insurance policies are up-to-date to cover this sort of vandalism.

SNAKE February 2015

Romance beckons in early February. Then retreats as suddenly as it arrived. What was that about? Did the other guy get cold feet? Give them some time. If he or she had genuine feelings for you, they will boomerang back. Meanwhile, you have more than enough to occupy your time. A stray is about to land on your doorstep. This arrival could be anyone from an unrequited ex to a prodigal adult child. Be wary. Remember what I told you about Sheep years? About being taken advantage of? Offer your visitor your hospitality if you must. But establish clear boundaries. Such as when they need to vacate the premises. You are not running a hotel or a youth hostel.

By the middle of the month, your sweet tooth is becoming uncontrollable. Especially with chocolate. Are the Valentine's Day advertisements sending you subliminal messages? On top of thickening your waistline, desserts play havoc with your blood sugar. If you cannot resist the *bonbons*, then introduce more physical activity into your daily routine. I know you Snakes would rather lounge on the sofa than jump around at the gym. If exercise for its own sake makes your eyes glaze over, why not try something more stylish. Something elegant? Like archery, fencing or Tai Chi. You might also take up ballroom dancing. Both the wardrobes and the fluidity of those graceful dances will appeal to your innate sense of sophistication.

Later in the month, when you are feeling more energetic, dive into some cleaning chores. You have been neglecting your housework for too long. You want to make tangible progress in your professional life, right? Well, that is not going to happen until your surroundings are spic and span. Organize the cupboards. Defrost the fridge. Throw away old newspapers, magazines and other space-wasters. Is that mooch still sleeping on your couch? Time for the old heave-ho. No need to apologize. Find them another place to stay. Even pay their first month's rent, if you feel guilty. They need to be sleeping elsewhere by the end of the month. Once you finally have your sparkling clean house to yourself, you can get on with your personal projects.

SNAKE March 2015

In the early stages of March, you are battling a strange lethargy. You may assume this fatigue to be the result of February's stress. But this sluggishness feels like more than a lack of relaxation. Go to the doctor or see an osteopath or acupuncturist. Something is out of balance. Energies? Chakras? Could be blood

sugar, electrolytes or your thyroid. You will also bump into an old friend this week. Once you have finished catching up, they will most likely invite you to a small get-together at their house next month. Say yes. This social event will lead to some interesting encounters.

As March's days stretch into weeks, you are still taking it easy. Even though you feel better, you continue to dither the hours away with expert Snake procrastination techniques. This dilly-dallying could have some serious side effects. Time to exercise your willpower. Banish those online game sites to the delete bin. Popping pretty bubbles and waging imaginary wars will not put food on the table. Take control of your situation. If you want to be entertained, read a good book. Or give that new art gallery a chance to inspire you. Even the local zoo would offer a nice break from the monotony of your computer screen. Anything is better than going cross-eyed in front of Tetris.

If you take my advice, your mind will be more alert by late March. In fact, you will actually be contemplating a little work about the house. February's purge set you to thinking. Now that your rooms are spruced clean and your house guest has been dispatched, you can see clearly that your décor is dated. Of course an intense do-it-yourself project seems too daunting. Accessories will make a huge difference. You perk right up when you think about pottering around the local shops, antique dealers and thrift stores. You might consider buying a pleasing print to hang over your bed next weekend. New towels? A few throw pillows? You are in the mood for reds this month. In every shade. From passionate pinks to vivid crimsons. Maybe drop a deep burgundy silk shirt or a scarlet negligee into your shopping bag too. Reds always give cold-blooded Snakes a lift.

SNAKE April 2015

Early in April, a coworker loses their cool over something you might interpret as a mild affront. A superior openly criticizes the coworker's office attire. Yes. The harsh remarks in front of everyone else were uncalled for. But the criticized person's reaction is way over the top. A nasty argument ensues and you worry for your colleague's job. Use a little Snake charm to settle the two of them down.

Right about now you need a minor makeover. There are two important soirées coming up this month and your hair is a sight! Why not go for blonder than blonde highlights? Or just cover the gray and have your hair shaped and styled. If you dare, why not try auburn? Do avoid the neon colors. Too brash. You are an elegant Snake, remember? A family event you are due to attend will probably be held towards the middle of the month. It might be a somewhat turbulent night. Behind all the forced smiles and laughter, gossip reigns. Everybody is whispering. Is a divorce imminent? An affair? An unwanted pregnancy? Do not get sucked in. The speculation is all hot air. Typical extended-family rubbish.

Late April you may see some police activity barge into your life. You are not the culprit. More likely, you have witnessed a minor crime. Perhaps a shoplifting incident or a drive by fender bender. You really did not notice much. At first the officers may press you. They think you are protecting someone. But your vague answers will show clearly that you were not the least involved. Looking forward to your long-lost friend's party? On this festive night, you will dazzle and enchant. Wear one of the red items you bought last month. Even if it is only a pair of garnet earrings. Or a deep burgundy tie. The evening proves fruitful. You will meet someone whose influence you can use in your professional life. And, as you look so fetching, you should head home with at least two promising phone numbers and a renewed sense of self confidence.

SNAKE May 2015

Early May is a joyous time for Snake people. You might as well be doused in pheromones. Everyone admires both you and your new hairstyle. Heads turn when you saunter past. And for good reason. At work, this mere physical improvement could lead to a higher-up finally realizing what an untapped

resource you are. If you are self-employed, new customers will be impressed. Word of mouth will spread. Expect little thank-you gifts. Those phone numbers you took at the party might lead to some very satisfying dates. Your phone is constantly ringing. Mostly good news too. Enjoy this period while you can. Because by mid-month, everything is set to shift.

On the 18th, Mercury ducks into retrograde orbit. Insistent phone calls begin to cause you headaches. Your bank calls you about potential identity fraud. Your name popped up on a credit request. Some brilliant worker found it a tad odd that you wanted to purchase a beach in Barbados. Or a golf course in Scotland. Thankfully, your treasurers had the sense to refuse the transaction. But now your accounts are frozen. And will remain so until you fill out and sign about twenty-seven forms. Grit your teeth and get down to business. There is no easy way out here. Since you will be restricted to cash-only for the rest of the month, try improving your budgeting skills. Trim back your spending. Make sure all monthly bills are taken care of in a timely manner. Steer clear of specialty grocers. Instead, check out local farmers' markets for quality foods at reasonable prices.

That trip to the outdoor markets might stir the rumblings of inspiration in you. You have always wanted to make your own food. Preserved, pickled, canned - you name it. Nothing is stopping you. Tell friends and family to start hoarding their glass jars. Think beyond your own larder's needs. Nothing beats homemade liqueurs. Plenty of such nectars need only a few months to mellow in the cellar. If you begin learning how to preserve foods now, by the time Summer rolls around and vegetables and fruits are in full season, you will have a grand old time pottering about in your kitchen. If you learn the necessary skills well, you could have a whole range of gorgeous homemade goodies to wrap in December.

SNAKE June 2015

Mercury is still retrograde. Your bank is back, asking you to complete more mind-numbing paperwork. You may also lose a few emails or sticky notes. Nothing essential, luckily. But you are none the less tempted to slither back into bed. At least until Mercury reverts to direct on the 11th. Instead of burrowing down into the covers, slide into some refreshing water. Try the beach or, if the water is too cold, visit your local pool. Water soothes the mind. If you are going to be in the great outdoors, do not forget the protective sun creams. Your skin is more sensitive than ever this month.

You are pondering whether to go on holiday now or wait a while longer. I suggest taking a break in July. Use June to browse holiday brochures and travel websites. See what destinations captivate you. If you book online, you might nab a real bargain. Check the reviews. What have other tourists had to say? Midway through the month, you set your sights on an auction. Are you searching for something specific? Or are you selling off an unwanted family heirloom? Watch out. A pricey item may catch your eye as you wait. Something utterly delectable. You are not the only one lusting after this lot. Desire and competition could blind you. Cut yourself a budget. Know specifically how much you are able to spend at this juncture.

You will need to cross a line later in June. This time, you have my full support. A co-worker is e-mailing tasteless online jokes to everyone at work or spreading harmful gossip. You need to confront this joker and be firm. Such crass behavior is both unacceptable and unprofessional. Convey the message to them before the situation gets out of hand and everyone is required to attend a sensitivity seminar. At home, life is far less stressful. A loved one is in a nurturing mood. Accept graciously when they offer to cook or buy you dinner out. If you are charming enough, your pal or significant other may even offer to give you a massage. Take that one lying down.

SNAKE July 201

Your job may lob a new nuisance in your direction in July. An important parcel has gone astray. It was not

your fault. Yet someone always wants to play the blame game. Unfortunately, you must stoop to their level. Make sure everyone knows who actually muffed up. The incident will not blow over merely because you are innocent. As July touches the halfway marker, you are off on a holiday. Besides figuring out which last minute items to pack for your trip, remember to give that spare house key to your friend or neighbor, shut off gas valves and leave on a few lights. While you are away, try out at least one new cultural experience. Swim with the dolphins. Take a boat trip up a fjord. Hike in a Sequoia Forest. Visit a prestigious museum. Make sure you come home with indelible memories.

During the last week of the month, you will have barely unpacked when you field a phone call. A close relative has managed to injure themselves. Nothing too severe. But a short hospital stay is inevitable. Do not panic. You still have enough time to wash and change before visiting hours. Buy your aunt or sister-in-law a little gift on the way. You have excellent taste in baubles. So you know exactly what will bring a smile to their lips.

From now till July 31, you will spend a lot of time helping that injured relative. They will need assistance at home. Drop off a load of high quality microwaveable frozen meals. Bring over some of your preserves. Cook up some stews and soups. Your patient will appreciate food far more than flowers and chocolates. Looks like someone else is a bit too eager to help out as well - an old family friend you have never seen eye-to-eye with. They love to play martyr. The ambiance is icy - and annoying. Try to be civil. Once the two of you are out the door and your relative is back on his or her feet, you never have to see this disagreeable person again.

SNAKE August 2015

In August's early days, a friend or co-worker suggests lunch. While you are enjoying the meal, he or she admits to a secret talent. All these years, and you never knew he wrote poetry! Or that she played the trombone! She suggests you go to a jazz club with her. She is a regular. He invites you to an evening of slam poetry. Acquiesce. Go. The evening will be a delight. And something there will stimulate your own creative juices. Maybe you will leave the music hall with the beginnings of your own moody composition running through your head. Perhaps the spoken verse will inspire you to take up your paintbrush again. Confused about which skill to learn first? Ask around. Take a class. Someone is always willing to play tutor. Check out your local library, university or see what the municipality has to offer.

Mid month, you have found a place to explore your hidden talents. Your car will be incapacitated for a portion of August. Take the bus or the tram or subway. A trip to the mechanic was long overdue. Is this the beginning of the end for your ride? . Depending on the status of your love life and the number of children or guests scurrying around your house, your current vehicle may be either too big or too small. If you can afford to shop around for a new set of wheels, bring that car savvy relative with you. The one who knows about brake pads and carburetors. He can check the engine. You keep the salesman busy nattering. There is always something the smiling car peddler is not telling you. It goes with the territory. Your knowledgeable friend's very presence will discourage a certain amount of hype.

In late August, you discover that a favorite potted plant or garden shrub in your back yard is dying. The leaves have strange spots. The branches are withering. Try a nearby plant nursery. Take them a leaf or two. Do not plant any new greenery until they have diagnosed the disease. It may be contagious.

SNAKE September 2015

September sings a sad song of a broken heart. Not yours though. That pesky house guest from February has returned. In tears. This time their lover has left them. Or booted them out. Hence their reappearance. Back on your curb with cases, boxes and valises. Offer them a shoulder to cry on. Help them find a new place to stay. But do not invite them to cross your threshold again or live with you again. We enter a Mercury

retrograde period on the 17th. You have been feeling a bit under the weather. Don't aggravate the situation by saddling yourself with other people's problems.

If you still feel ill by mid-month, see a doctor. Your *malaise* could be the return of an old ailment. Have you been lazy about what you eat? Look in the mirror. It shows. Dry skin. Shadows under the eyes. Bloating. All those symptoms can be improved by altering your diet. Consult a dietician. They will print you a list of suggested eats. First, exorcise the usual suspects from your pantry. Then head for the organic grocery store. Some items on the dietician's list may sound revolting. Or dull as cardboard. Fact is, you have to learn how to cook them to make them tasty. Avoid restaurants and takeout food for a month. Spend that extra money on clothing, music, tickets to an event instead.

Since Mercury is still retrograde, do not bother trying to explain your new diet to your loved ones. When they complain about your gluten free cupcakes or low salt snacks, just say "doctor's orders". This retrograde will cause some family miscommunication. Brace yourself for misunderstandings. Do not email notoriously grumpy relatives. Religion and politics (not to mention gay marriage) are the topics most likely to be misconstrued. Keep your distance from touchy subjects. End of August, you may be outraged by a passing comment - Sexist. Racist. Bunkum. Maintain your composure. You can't convert bigots by countering what they say. Use strategy instead.

SNAKE October 2015

The first week of October ushers in a pensive mood. You have been pondering heavy subjects such as life and death. Are you contemplating drawing up your will? Or setting up instructions for your funeral? Do not finalize anything legal until Mercury goes direct on October 9th. I shudder to think of what might happen if you do. Your valuables could end up going to your black sheep little cousin. Or a typo will mangle your last wishes. You are also pondering your spirituality. Should you believe less fervently? Explore other religions? Just as with your diet last month, the key in finding out what is best for the individual you. Peace of mind is vital to good health. If Buddhism gives you tranquility, embrace it. If it does not engender serenity, move on.

Midway through the month, there is grand drama. It concerns in-laws (or grandparents) and their possessions. Something is missing. The value is both sentimental and monetary. They are ransacking their house from head to toe. And pulling the hairs out of their own heads. You will be the one who remembers that they were burgled years ago. Although they didn't notice at the time, this item was probably taken then. Take them out for a treat. Something to take their minds off the loss. Remind them how little material things count. Give them some cheerful family news. Charlie's new baby. Or Karla's prestigious promotion.

While you are out browsing greeting cards, pick up a gift. A housewarming present for your departing friends. You are sad to see them go. You have been inseparable forever. So give them something lasting. A clock. An antique lamp. A silver tea service. Meaningful gifts are those which make us think of the giver every time we use them.

Are you still grappling with those extra sensory feelings you get on and off? You often know ahead of time when something is happening or about to happen. You have premonitory dreams. You have tried to pretend they don't exist. But they do. How else would you know that Uncle George is thinking of visiting you? Or that your house is being burgled while you are at the movies? Heed these messages. Make use of them for yourself - and why not - the help others?

SNAKE November 2015

Back in June you found a bargain for a November vacation. At a luxury holiday resort. Why not ask a friend to come along? He or she has had a difficult couple of months. Going through a divorce or a

bereavement can really suck the life out of people. So push and prod them until they agree to kick back and come with you. Use your subtle Snake manipulation skills if necessary. Take a good book. Or if you are lucky enough to have an electronic reader, take along a few dozen good books. Make sure you try all the local foods. You might even want to learn how to cook them. Thai or Vietnamese cookbooks provide endless recipes for vegetable dishes with tangy rich flavors.

The rest of November will be fairly quiet. Of course next month's holiday madness looms. Use this temporary truce with pandemonium to finalize the do-it-yourself projects you put off earlier this year. Install that new adjustable jet shower head you have been wishing for. Or upgrade the kitchen countertops. Make over the master bedroom. Start dropping hints now for what kind of Xmas gifts you want. Remind your loved ones of the new color schemes you have picked for that bedroom. Don't be afraid to suggest cushions or rugs. Minor accidents with sharp tools can happen now. Maintain strict concentration if using knives, blades or screwdrivers.

Work is sluggish at the end of the month. Half the staff is laid up at home with seasonal bugs. The rest are merely coasting into December. Even you are not exactly working at peak speed. But you are bored in your job. And you are not overly enthusiastic about your love life either. Sheep years, as I warned you, can be tepid affairs. Your best bet may be to curl up on the couch with a hot mug of your favorite beverage and a bodice-ripper cinematic adventure. That is about as steamy as late November gets in 2015. Hang in there. December improves slightly.

SNAKE December 2015

This year, you will probably order several of your seasonal gifts online. That means someone needs to be home to accept them. Do not overlook this fact! Or an important package could get returned to its sender. Leave clear instructions for the postman to leave all boxes with the nice neighbor across the street or that pleasant couple upstairs. Also, keep in mind that you already have a stock of ready-made presents in your homemade goodies cupboard. Continue the country farm theme. Wrap your presents in old-fashioned brown paper bags and tie them with red gingham ribbons.

At work, you have gained a not-so-secret admirer. Younger, and lacking in subtlety and manners. They have bought you a rather expensive gift. Thank them graciously. But make it clear you will only be friends. Do not be surprised if they ask for the present back! The month's celebrations will be festive. Your heart may flutter a bit when you realize you forgot to buy something for grandma or Cousin Ed. Juggle around the purchases you have already acquired. I am confident you will be able to sort something out. But be sure to switch the tags! You don't want grandma puzzling over a note that reads "To my sizzling sugar baby."

You have been asked to baby-sit. No surprise there. You are everyone's favorite aunt/uncle type. Not too strict. And you always play with the kids. But this request sends your blood pressure skyrocketing. Not because of the children. They are sweet. It's the family pet. That creature hates you. If it is a pint-sized little growler, bring a spray bottle of water with you. Safe and easy to use. Most animals back off in a hurry if you give them a gentle squirt. If the animal is big enough to actually hurt you, ask that the kids come to your house to be sat with. Specify they must leave the dog at home.

SNAKE January 2016

January sees us in another Mercury retrograde. From the 5th to the 25th, your daily existence could be fraught with complications. Be particularly wary of come-ons from charities. The latest note will not seem out of the ordinary. After all, you are always giving money to this or sending indignant letters to defend that. This new organization seems perfectly genuine. But when they start pressing you for a donation, exercise caution. Do not hand over your bank details. The Sheep year's end is tricky. Keep your

eye out for red flags.

In January you find yourself nostalgic. Perhaps this is because you have a school reunion planned for 2016. Is thinking about it making you relive the past? Or has an individual triggered these feelings in you? A man who was once of high importance in your life is due to return in late January. Maybe an old love, maybe an old friend. He is a strong-willed one. Intelligent and outspoken. Or at least he was when you last knew him. You will bump into this character in the least expected of places. He is older now, but just as charismatic. You have a lot of catching up to do. Retrograde effects be damned, you two always manage to understand each other. You might find, much to your surprise, that you end up asking his advice. And even though you have not spoken in ages, he will have the perfect wise-man's answer to your problem.

At the culmination of this Sheep year, you are staring down a test of your commitment. Are you thinking of asking your new love to move in? Or has your old squeeze finally proposed? You are one part elated, two parts terrified. The trick is figuring out which reaction to heed. My advice? Wait until February. Then ask a Monkey person. Monkeys are notorious problem-solvers.

HORSE

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR HORSES IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE HORSE

Headstrong Horse,

Isn't it time you came clean with your friends and family? Constantly minding your manners and/or keeping secrets gets old fast. Luckily, Sheep years are a breeze for you Horses. They bring sunshine into your life. They also cheer you on to ever more arcane acts and ambitious endeavors. Sheeple do not expect much from their steeds. Only that your back be strong enough to take them along for the ride. Luckily, you do not mind pulling more than your weight. You can handle having a vapidly artistic person rely on you. Or having a brilliant but absent-minded type depend on your support. The Sheep spends his or her life seeking the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. And they recognize that you might be just the vehicle to carry them there.

This is your chance to live life by extremes. Time to take that hike in the Himalayas. Or why not a comfortable tour of the world's casinos? Perhaps you could meet up with your Cousin Charlie for a weekend bender in Las Vegas? Do something outrageous. One way or the other, under the Sheep's Horse-friendly influence, everything will work out for the best. Even your health will be excellent. As long as you keep up your fitness routine and stick to lean meats, fish, vegetables, and of course...OATS. sw

HORSE January 2015

Your humanitarian side is deeply affected by something you read or see during the first week of 2015. This information actually creates a subtle soul realignment within you. You may start to meditate more frequently. You become able to see more clearly into your consciousness and understand your dreams. You gain new insight which enables you to better discern your own faults as well as recognize your

positive attributes. You may feel a bit abashed about some of the things you did or said in the past. Yet you also realize that you have the strength and talent to evolve into a better version of yourself. You feel inspired and excited by the growth you have achieved this year. You can be confident that the innate heroism and brilliance within you will allow you to accomplish great things. Perhaps not monetarily. But from a humanistic point of view.

Your teaching, activism or political career continues to earn you increased respect. People who formerly avoided or even disliked you, seem to regard you with new eyes. One of these former enemies may even open the door to an important appointment or nomination of some sort for you during the latter part of January.

Around the 20th, just as you are so enthusiastically gazing toward the mountain of enlightenment, you suddenly stub your toe. This may happen on either a literal or a metaphoric level. This new awkwardness is sending you a message about paying more attention to the journey than to the destination. Could be a flat tire. Or a day or so of tripping over your own feet as you tread the sidewalk. This spate of clumsiness is the universe's way of reminding you of the hard work and attention to detail necessary for any great personal accomplishment. Your long-term noble goals can only be reached step-by-step. Momentous periods of clarity about ourselves and our goals do not mean that the clouds part and the universe banishes all obstacles from our path. We still have to slog and drudge up two steps and back down one every time.

HORSE February 2015

February starts off at full gallop. Just the way you like it! Expect to find treasures in unexpected places in its first week. Love? You will find it at a place of worship. It might be your regular spot. Or it could be somewhere completely foreign to you. Perhaps your eyes will meet theirs from across a tour of an ancient temple. Or maybe you will bump into each other at a mutual friend's wedding. Your finances should be full of happy surprises, as well. You will be happy to know that a chronic borrower from the Bank of the Horse is finally going to repay his or her debt. Plus interest.

The halfway mark of the month sees you arranging travel details for an animal. It might be that your mother is making a big move. Fluffy has to accompany her across the country, of course. Or are you looking to bring a beloved critter along on holiday this year? Whatever the case may be, I would double-check the paperwork. It is possible that the accommodation you thought was pet-friendly has been placed under new management. Could make for an ugly scene. At work, someone might invite you out for a small celebration. Have fun, but watch what you eat or drink. There is something on the menu that you are allergic to. You do not want to spend the evening with a front-row view of the toilet bowl.

During the last week of February, a younger relative needs to talk. Be their ear to vent into. Be their shoulder to cry on. But avoid getting dragged into the situation. You are not being told the whole story. If you pick a side, you could become a pawn in a family chess match which is far more complex than it appears. Soothe your own nerves with some invigorating exercise. If you are not in the mood, go for a long outdoor stroll on the weekend. Maybe you could invite that new *amour* to join you? Take him or her on a romantic nature walk (editor's note: bring bug spray). Follow it up with a sunset meal somewhere cozy. You'll see. Seduction works. You will have your crush eating out of your palm.

HORSE March 2015

March starts with a family financial emergency. Someone has confessed an unpleasant truth. Has Grandpa confessed to his internet gambling addiction? Has your cousin Lisa been hiding the fact that she filed for bankruptcy last year? And... that she has not paid her bills since? Tell everyone not to panic. Together, you can solve the problem. To do so, reconnect with an old friend. Someone you trust to dole out reliable

advice. You may receive a parcel or gift this week. It contains something fragile, so be careful when you unwrap it. It is not a holiday present whose festive covering just begs to be ripped to shreds. Do take care.

As the month marches along, you might find yourself buying something for a young child or baby. You are tempted to make it a jokey present. That t-shirt that with a raunchy slogan on the front. Forget it. The kid's parents do not share your sense of humor. Will they smile at their little darling dressed up as a banana or cartoon character? Maybe so. But who knows? Mid-March, while commuting you need to remain alert. Drivers will be particularly careless. Minor accidents and fender benders abound. Remain alert to cars leaping traffic lights. Or making un-sigaled turns in front of you. If the worst happens, whip out that smart phone. Simply exchanging information with the other driver is not enough. Snap pictures of the damage in the immediate aftermath. Nothing validates an insurance claim better than a real-time photo of the incident.

You will be craving fresh fruit and vegetables in March. This hankering is probably due to an imbalance of nutrients in your diet. Listen to your body. Feed it what it needs. If the urges continue for more than a month, pay your family doctor a visit. You may need to add more vitamins to your health regime.

April ends in a dilemma. You have two invitations for the same weekend. Whatever will you do? You know you cannot manage both, no matter how much you want to. The tricky question is which commitment to keep. Which one can be postponed. Consider who the host is to you. How important? Still cannot decide? Then flip a coin. The coin's decision at least will be final.

HORSE April 2015

A sudden need for austerity may well arise in early April. Either you are having tough times yourself, or friends or close family members are going through a rough patch. Whomever it belongs to, this financial setback is sure to cramp your style. Even if you do have some extra cash lying about, try hard not to lend money now. It looks like there is some frivolous, flirtatious behavior going on at your place of employment. Before the entire shebang ends up like some zany office comedy on a TV series - drop a few pointed remarks about how important projects need to be finished or else someone's pay will be docked. That alone should bring few featherbrains back down to earth.

This whole year is full of petty distractions for Horses. People keep trying to lure you to come out and play. But do resist their advances because there is a strong indication that in mid April a hobby or outside interest of yours could evolve into a money earner. This happy turn of events might well sort out the thorny fiscal issues present at the beginning of the month. Don't be surprised if you receive an offer of cash for a product or idea you hatched on your own.

Your home life looks to be running smoothly throughout April. If you have teenagers, there could be some rumblings from the peanut gallery about having to help out around the house. If, however, you are not blessed with a herd of tattooed ingrates, you and your companion or bed partner should benefit from some peaceful moments just hanging out as a couple. The health picture for Horses in April is a bit choppy. The change of seasons can cause a surge of allergies or spur cold and flu bugs to accumulate inside your body. Take extra care to keep foods moving through you by eating 5 fruits and vegetables and drinking at least 6 glasses of water a day. With proper elimination, microbes and bacteria won't be able to set up housekeeping where they are not welcome.

HORSE May 2015

As May rumbles out of the starting gates, work has you feeling restless and edgy. Success? Promotions? Your dream job? Those pipe dreams feel like the carrot on the stick—always just out of reach. It is time to speak up. This could mean asking for advice from a colleague who has been in your position. Or perhaps you should discuss your concerns for your future with an employer or superior. Quiet your emotions long enough to listen to their response. They have something important to share. With all this on your mind, remember to send flowers to someone in early May. The occasion for the posies is likely to be more important to them than it is to you.

Someone may play on your love of animals towards the middle of the month. A shelter for unwanted kittens might reach out for a donation. Or perhaps a charity dedicated to preserving an endangered species will do the same. Very touching stuff. But Mercury turns goes retrograde on 18th. All forms of communication are likely to be haywire. Run a background check on the charity before you start filling its coffers. Do not sign any checks. If you have doubts—if you see any red flags—politely decline. Save your “yes” for when a friend offers to give you a hand with some home improvements. Put on some up-tempo tunes to get the energy flowing. Working together will be fun. And satisfying. The gig might take a full weekend, so be prepared to order food delivered to the house.

When the DIY project is done, why not take your friend out for some better eats? A decent thank-you dining experience is in order. An exciting new spot or an older, more elegant venue. An older man is on your mind at the end of May. It could be your father or another fatherly figure. Recently, the two of you have been clashing over ideas and ideals. I know this is hurting you both. Can you find a way to hug, shake hands and let it go? This is not the month for rational, articulate debate. Instead, agree to disagree. Contentment, if not eternal happiness, will follow.

HORSE June 2015

June begins on a tranquil note. Some minor illness has you cooped up at home with assorted aches. If you can muster the energy, plan a getaway for the last week of the month. Or at least arrange a relaxing weekend. One where you can fill your time with self-indulgent activities. Like reading a good book or watching classic movies. Just ensure that the snacks are healthy ones. Throwing back chocolates and potato chips will not do your already fragile immune system any favors. Add some fruit and a bowl of oats for breakfast to start the day off right. Look out for a suspicious email from an anonymous sender during this retrograde. Delete it without opening. You do not want any hungry viruses devouring your hard drive.

Mercifully, the intrepid Mercury goes direct on the 11th. Just in time - a wedding or family party is on the horizon. You have been looking forward to this soiree. The only problem you anticipate is running into a certain grouchy relative. Someone annoying or difficult to please. Hopefully, you can keep your distance for most of the event. If they are assigned a place close to you, try negotiating a swap with a more saintly individual. You came to participate in a day of celebration - not of endurance. You will meet up with someone far more pleasant later this week. An old friend you have not seen in decades. Remember to exchange phone numbers or emails before you part ways. You two have a lot to catch up on.

Around June's curtain call, you or a loved one is embarking on a journey of spiritual self-discovery. Not everyone is happy with the ripple effects for the rest of the family. Change is never easy, but stagnation is far worse. Courage continues to be a theme for you at the end of the month. You are called upon to help someone. It might be an act of physical bravery, such as pulling a person to safety from in front of an oncoming bus. But it could also be something more symbolic. Such as verbally sticking up for a shy

colleague in the face of a bullying superior. You may face the wrath of the higher-ups right now. But the personal rewards will be worth it.

HORSE July 2015

Your social life may have you traveling out of your comfort zone in early July. This might entail a group outing to a lively event. Anything from a rousing sports match to an evening of modern dance. Think carefully about your choice of footwear. Of course you want to look good. Who does not? But there will be a lot of standing or walking. Do not Aching feet can utterly ruin an otherwise jolly evening with friends. In the meantime, you are dithering on a decision. It is high time to let go of a tired belonging. A vintage car, or another sentimental possession. I know you have wonderful memories attached to this object. But it remains just that: an object. And a rather worn out one at that. So move on, before you become the creepy neighbor who hoards outdated TV sets and VCR players in the living room.

In mid-July, family brings love your way. For single Horses this could be an exciting opportunity. Will your sibling introduce you to an adorable friend? Is your cousin's new boss the man or woman of your dreams? Anything is possible. Paired Horses will be pleased to discover that this romantic energy benefits them as well. Nothing like a bit of jealous competition to rekindle old fires! An offhand remark hurts your feelings this week. Did your boss hint that you need to lose weight? Has your mother commented once too many times that the clock is ticking for her to enjoy some grandchildren? Stay on your own path. No need to detour because of biting remarks.

Finances are tight in late July. Overspending, or a run of bad luck on investments, could be the culprit. Time to say goodbye to the expensive labels and hello to the bargain brands. Think outside the box for ways to generate some extra cash. You enjoyed a particular hobby as a child. Knitting? Wood carving, perhaps? Money-making possibilities abound within this skill set. Just make a few tweaks. What if you wove funky necklaces out of fine wire and beads? What if you carved custom cupboard doors for kitchen units? Use your imagination. You will be surprised what treasures you can craft.

HORSE August 2015

August kicks off with an adventurous outdoor event. You could be rounding up your lethargic co-workers for a forest hike. Or dragging the family along on a camping holiday. The beginning of the month may even see you boarding a plane with friends, destined for some unexplored part of the planet. Whatever the case may be, you are in for a pulse-pounding adventure. Check your bags three times before you leave. Do you have your medications? Your toothbrush? Run down the list. The small but important things are the ones likely to slip through the cracks. And remember to turn off all your home appliances before you hit the road. One of them needs replacing. But this is not the moment.

Mid-August sees you considering a radical change of diet. You are contemplating giving up some of your favorite foods. Perhaps you will be ditching meat for your health. Or avoiding carbs to shrink your waistline. Either way, you will be healthier and happier for your decision. Around this point, a co-worker may deliver you an unpleasant surprise. In the form of an offensive joke. Most likely sent via email or phone. Unless you deal with it promptly, this incident will sour things at work. Be polite but make clear that their messages were thoroughly acceptable. They will probably laugh off your squeamishness as lack of humor. Do not relent after their acidic reaction. What they think of as a prank is not only bad manners, it's intolerable to you (which is what really counts).

As August walks out the door, a new love enters. A child. It might be your own pregnancy or adoption. Or a loved one's offspring. You will be smitten from the first toothless smile or gurgled half-word. This is one love affair that will last a lifetime. While you are out and about this week, you will be tempted to buy something outlandish. It could range from a pet python to a set of cow-shaped coffee cups. Keep an eye on

the price tags. Crazy buying sprees can concoct a deadly cocktail.

HORSE September 2015

You thought your babysitting days were long behind you. Right? Think again. You will be in charge of a gaggle of kids in September. Perhaps you have a guest with children visiting. Be careful what you offer them to eat. One of the young ones has a severe food allergy. Of course, you vetted the foodstuffs. But what about the drinks and condiments? Better to be overly cautious now than to make a frantic emergency room run later. At work, you are soon to embrace some good news. A promotion, a pay raise or perhaps a transfer to a more desirable location. This deal will force you to compromise. Nothing you cannot handle though. Get any related paperwork signed and delivered before Mercury turns retrograde orbit again on the 17th.

Someone in the family is playing guilt-trip games with you. They want to get your goat and make you feel bad. You know exactly who I mean. That person whose very voice makes your stomach clench. Although you know full well they are manipulating you, you pick up the bait every time. At some point you must stop them from dangling lures in front of your nose. Wake up to their chicanery. If you dare not tell them off, just avoid them from now on. They are toxic to you. Be careful around home this week. The junk piled on your floors makes for a veritable obstacle course. If you trip, perhaps it is a message from the universe. Time to tidy up!

Your health probably needs an overhaul by late September. Something hurts. Something needs seeing to. Toothache? Foot pain? Stop putting it off and get the issue sorted out. The source of the problem will only worsen with time. While our retrograde-induced communication funk lingers, why not take a vacation? Pick somewhere you can kick back. A tranquil place, far away from unnecessary chatter. A spiritual retreat where you embark on a week-long vow of silence? Just what the doctor ordered. Clearly, less extreme options abound as well. A weekend at a health spa, for instance. Or a couple of days spent cuddling up with your lover in your freshly tidied living room.

HORSE October 2015

As October begins, Mercury is inducing some mild mayhem at work. Office computers keep needing to reboot. At home, you find yourself wishing you could reboot a few family members as well. On top of everything else, you might receive a letter or email meant for someone else's eyes. The problem? This message contains some highly personal information. Once the retrograde ends on the 9th, contact the sender. Bring them up to speed on the situation. But stress the fact that you did not read their intimate material (even if you did). Treat yourself to a small extravagance this week, to soothe those Mercury-addled nerves. Perhaps a slice of decadent cake with your lunchtime coffee? Or maybe a bag of those fancy spiced crisps you adore.

Towards the middle of the month, you may begin to notice a strange grinding noise emanating from your washing machine. It could be nothing more than a pebble caught in the machinery. Then again, the origin might be something more sinister. Remember that friend who was raving about their new handyman (or handywoman)? Give him or her a call. Get the contact number and call in the specialist.

Something goes missing at work in the third week of October. It could be documents. Or even a colleague's hard-earned cash. Suspicions and emotions will be running high. But this truly seems to have been an accident. The office criminal you were secretly hoping to expose does not exist. Bummer. The department could have used some excitement. Instead, the missing items will be located wedged behind a bulky piece of furniture or in the wrong file drawer.

You run the risk of forgetting an important meeting or birthday during October's final weeks. So write the date down in your diary. Or leave a sticky note on the fridge. Double-underline that sucker so you cannot

miss it! As the month ends, your lover or spouse may be feeling under the weather. Perhaps they are genuinely ill. But it is equally possible that they are seeking your attention because they're lonely. Have you been neglecting your marital duties lately? Are you so wrapped up in your job that you have neglected to support the person nearest and dearest to you? Why not atone for your transgressions with some extra couples time this week? Eliminate all distractions. Send the kids to a friend's house for the weekend. Turn off the computers or phones. Bite the bullet. Spend time cooking and canoodling.

HORSE November 2015

As October morphs into November, a morbid feeling grips your soul. You live in fear of your life changing for the worse. Perhaps you are experiencing a run of bad luck. You must remember that most of what we worry about never actually materializes. Although the Wheel of Fortune turns downward against you now, the wheel will naturally turn upward again one of these bright days. Good fortune will come back. This difficult phase will pass.

The second week of the month presents a pristine opportunity to get over your malaise. Take a road trip. Or a plane trip, if you can afford it. Use a vacation day to elongate a weekend. Choose your destination carefully. You are not taking a break to party and drink away your blues. Keep a spiritual theme in mind. Even if your adherence to it only entails visiting some ancient temples. See if you can find a destination with a monastery or chateau to stay in. Perhaps you can book a week at a resort which teaches yoga or Tai Chi.

Your vacation does not have to be the silent, lonely soul-searching type. Ask around. In all likelihood, you have friends or loved ones who are feeling a similar yearning for something more right now. Turn your trip into a social event. If you must accommodate people's various schedules, push the date back to a weekend later in November. Of course, the purpose is still to find some sort of spiritual guidance or meaning. But now, the journey itself will be a joy. Ever seen a road trip movie? Have yourself some adventures. If you see a handmade sign advertising the world's biggest watermelon...well hey, when will ever get the chance to see a giant, hormone-injected piece of fruit again? Unplanned detours can really spice up your little jaunt. Plus, the more spontaneous the activities, the closer you will be with your travel mates. In the process, you will find what you have really needed all along—more meaningful relationships.

HORSE December 2015

Early December sees you frantically tallying gift list upon gift list. After all, someone has to keep everyone content this holiday season, Why not ditch choosing presents for each this year? Buy some gift certificates. Get vouchers for unusual things like extreme sports events and other fun-day-out activities. Or look online for the items you cannot find in local stores. Make your purchase extra meaningful - buy through online charity shops. Check and double-check the delivery times for your packages. You do not want to be waiting at the post office doors on the night before Christmas. Do not forget your friends who are celebrating in other regions across the globe. Choose the applicable postal cards or e-cards to distribute.

A mid-month invitation should be treated with suspicion. This gesture stems from a regular customer at the Bank of the Horse. Not a valued client, however. This character rarely repays their debts. Upon further reflection, I think we both know why they want to ask you out for a meal. Tell them you are too busy. The truth is the best excuse. You do have several family gatherings and other social invitations lined up. Watch for over indulgence in sweets at your various functions. A bit of festive gourmandise is satisfying. But a four-hour heartburn session? Was it worth it?

At home, the household chores are backing up. As is the dish-filled sink. I know you hate housework.

Who doesn't? But there comes a moment where you have to grit your teeth and get the job done. Fruit flies and other specimens are actually buzzing around the kitchen. Time to get the job done. December may end with some unexpected travel. Perhaps a surprise gift from a loved one. Something like a romantic weekend for two from your partner. It might involve you traveling cross-country to be present for the birth of your first grandchild. It will be a glorious occasion, but be extra careful nonetheless. People drive recklessly at this time of year. You don't want to become a statistic.

HORSE January 2016

I have a post holiday surprise for you. It is a big one. And boy, is it powerful. Yippee! A (nearly) full month of Mercury retrograde! That dastardly planet is in retrograde from the 5th until the 25th. As always, be prepared for communication problems and electronic breakdowns. Fortunately, this is a month of good fortune. Your health is excellent. So good in fact that you are tempted to begin a new energetic pastime. Martial arts, sky-diving, maybe salsa dance classes? Something active and life-enhancing. A relative also has a new interest. Theirs relates to animals. Possibly horseback riding or obstacle course training for their very special dog. You might be asked to help with transportation. Especially if your kinsperson is older or does not drive.

Around the middle of January, an acquaintance is taking part in a talent competition. A relative who plays the trombone? A friend who pole dances? They want you to attend their event. You hesitate. You fear an evening of mediocre talents. But then your opinion of this person's actual skill level is irrelevant. You were invited for support. Not to criticize. Make the event about fun and enjoy the experience. No use obsessing over who's winning. Pay close attention to whom you meet there. Doubtless, you will be bumping into someone intriguing. Dazzling, charming and very interested in you. Single Horses, enjoy! For you bridled Horses, admire from afar. But do not touch.

A contract or bill of sale arrives this week. The document needs your signature. Set it aside until after the 25th when our friend Mercury goes direct. Make certain you read through it thoroughly before signing. The month ends on a mellow note. Romance is in the air and it just might be emanating from you and that delectable person you met at the talent show. Or perhaps a sexy movie or new song is stirring long-dormant recollections of your own passionate nuptials. Either way, you will be feeling lustful as well as loving. Time to dust off that bottle of vintage wine. Celebrate the arrival of the Monkey year on February 8th by cooking up a repast for two that you can be proud of.

SHEEP

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR SHEEP IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

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May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016 2015

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE SHEEP

Skillful Sheep,

Author's note: Certain Asian cultures call your sign GOAT. As they use SHEEP only, I have been prevailed upon by my Chinese readers to switch from GOAT to SHEEP. So if I used to call you Goat, from now on, I will be addressing you as Sheep. sw

At last, it's 2015 and you are in charge! Not exactly your style however. You would prefer to be named chancellor of the exchequer or perform as the King's or Queen's jester. You feel more secure when safely employed and protected by the society in which you find yourself. But never mind. You have the throne this year and you will handle it – your way. Providence is with you. This year will give you all that you have dreamed of in the way of freedom and the means to create and do and invent and put into production all the wondrous notions you have been able to cook up over the past 3 years. This is, as well, the year when you must make a plan for the next 12 years.

Your plan should go something like: “2015, Innovate. You're the leader. 2016, Get the production line moving. Hire new people. Make changes, but keep away from spotlights. 2017, Tighten your belt” etc . . . until you come to 2027 when your year comes around again. The Chinese divide time by 60 year cycles of 12 year periods. This is the beginning of one of your cycles. By 2019, you should have decided to either get or stay married. Decide now where you want to be in 12 years, what do you want to be doing and with whom? Aside from running the world this year you must get busy drafting a 12 year plan. sw

SHEEP January 2015

Does your partner have a habit that drives you crazy? Perhaps she/he squeezes the toothpaste tube from

the middle. Or maybe your otherwise perfect lover consistently leaves the task of making the bed to you. It's possible some little thing she or he does unconsciously, like aimlessly humming a tuneless hum while sitting on the toilet, irritates you. On a day early in January when you are already feeling vexed, you might snap at your significant other about these little habits.

Considering the way the stars are aligned right now, your critical remark could precipitate a major relationship rift. My advice, dear Sheep, is to develop your own counter-habit to prevent an argument. Whenever you feel bothered by some minute aspect of your lover's personality, pull on a strand of your hair or bite your lip or twirl your fingers. Let this action serve as a reminder to you to pause before speaking. During that brief pause, decide whether the problem is really worth discussing. It's pick your battles time. If you must bring it up, choose a means of addressing the annoying habit that won't make your partner feel rejected or overly criticized.

January 2015 is a good month for taking a hard look at your wardrobe. Early in the month assess the strong parts of your wearing apparel and decide to chuck out the weaker elements. Accessories are often impulse buys and don't really go with anything you frequently wear. Get rid of that dumb tie with the eagle painted on it. Throw out those patterned stockings which make your legs look fat. Rid yourself of frivolous excess now so you can make room for a few good things to enter the closet. Take your time, but plan to acquire some quality new clothes.

There's some kind of class or workshop around the 18th of this month that is very important for you to take. This learning opportunity will benefit you a great deal. Both the content of the class and the contacts you make through it will prove invaluable to you in the coming months. Even if you are experiencing a period of financial scarcity, try to come up with the funds to participate in this course. Sell some old books or CD's. Sign up to be a paid research subject at a university or clinic in your area. Worse comes to worst, borrow the money. What you gain from the course will allow you to broaden your scope and increase your income considerably.

SHEEP February 2015

Welcome to *your* year, Sheeple (Starts Feb 19) And what a year it is to be! If February is anything to judge by, the next eleven months will be a veritable roller coaster. There will be ups and downs and plenty of surprises in store. And we both know how much you crave those unexpected bombshells!

Things are looking especially rosy on the home front. It could be time to finally put down a deposit on the flat or house of your dreams. Or perhaps now is the moment to ask your dream partner to move in with you. Of course, nothing ever goes off without a hitch. In that vein, this month will sorely try your patience. Yes, you will get the guy or girl, or that adorable little flat on the better side of town. But if you are restless and try to rush things, all will be for naught. Relationships take time. Do not force anything. If you do, you might regret February altogether and end up sitting on the stoop of your dream house, alone and in tears.

I have a simple, easy-to-implement technique to help you handle your impatience. Halt whatever you are doing. Take a deep breath (or seven). You must stop getting in your own way. Step back from the situation. Seek help from a village elder. Perhaps a parent or a friend fits the bill. They know you better than you know yourself. Their advice is just what you need to coax the maximum benefits out of this month. Being aggressive is not the same as being brave. Take some cues from a Tiger. Imagine you are tracking the ultimate prey. Wait until the timing is perfect. What works for your feline friend may just make your dreams come true too.

Be on alert for minor health issues this month. With everything that is already piled on your plate, you are tempted to skip the fuss of cooking up a healthy meal. Making a beeline for easy peasy junk foods seems

the only option. But stay your hand. You will regret ant mindless munching. So will your sensitive body.

SHEEP March 2015

After all the heady hope of the previous month, March might feel like a slap in the face. There you were, bounding gloriously through February's fields, when March's storm cloud suddenly blotted out the sun. What happened? The skies looked so promising. You had the deeds or leases signed to move into that perfect home. You had found and bought the ring for that perfect girl or boy. Then, in early March, your plans begin to fall apart. Do not despair. There are silver linings to every such dark nebula. This case is no exception.

Use early March's slap on your wrist as a wake-up call. Now is your moment to decide what really matters to you. Time to face your fears. Think profoundly and act cautiously. Is your lover showing his or her true colors by repeatedly dumping you and breaking your heart? Or has your terror of commitment been preventing you from fully baring your heart? Perhaps you have developed excuse after excuse to delay moving into a new house. Are you dragging your little hooves in the dirt because you are afraid of change? That fear of the unknown is the bogeyman under your bed this month. I cannot make your decisions for you. But I can tell you right now that you will never conquer your demons by hiding from them. This March, you need to drag them out from under the bed and settle things between you - once and for all. Otherwise, you will still be trembling under the covers when the next year rolls around.

Use the first weeks of March to consult last month's wise man or woman or employ a professional therapist. This person will inspire you to face your fears. Thus, by the end of the month, you will be ready to frolic in the sunshine once again. Broadcast a positive attitude. Concentrate on what you can accomplish instead of what you cannot. If anyone can pull off "Fake it till you make it," it is a resourceful and imaginative Sheep.

SHEEP April 2015

If you heeded my advice and made changes in March, April should be a delightful romp along the mountainside. If not, this might turn out to be the month that pushes you to the cliff and dangles you over the edge by your skinny legs. The problem is, my dear and dreamy Sheep, that you are not very adept at dealing with harsh realities. All those changes you set into motion in February are now gathering momentum. You must now acknowledge and act on those life modifications. Clean up your act.

On top of your existential dilemmas, a seductive new love comes creeping into your life when you least expect it. Be prepared for a major romantic surprise. For instance, that guy or girl at the office. The one who has never given you so much as a glance. Did they seriously just ask you to go to the opera? Or are you still dreaming? The revelation may be even more unexpected. Is there a baby is on the way? Whatever the case, this new kind of amour will overload all your Sheep senses and turn your world upside down. My advice? Dig in. Take a big bite. And savor the challenge.

That creative Wood year magic has added a new sparkle to your eyes. Now those little hooves are ready to salsa up the mountainside. You never felt so good, and you never looked better. No wonder strangers are falling in love. Who could resist you? Well, to be blunt, there are several who can and will do just that—resist. The vibrant new you is drawing attention from other sources: the jealous kind. Watch out for a bout of backstabbing at the office near the middle of April. Or perhaps some spiteful sibling tantrums will flare up at a family gathering in the month's final weeks. Someone out there is not impressed with your internal makeover. Remain on the lookout for this brigand. He or she will try to shove you over the precipice by undermining your courage or commitment. Not all "helpful" advice is as well-meaning as it is made to sound.

SHEEP May 2015

May is a tale of two halves. The reversal of Mercury's orbit splits the month in two, starting on the 18th. Interestingly, this retrograde should cause more misunderstandings in your personal life than in your career. Things can continue to operate smoothly at work. As long as you take a cue from someone older and steadier than you. You know the very one. The person who never panics and always gets the job done on time. Follow this person's example of determined self-discipline, and you will sail through these murky waters unscathed. Ignore them, and you risk drifting aimlessly in the doldrums until mid-June. Put your snout to the grindstone. Your toil will pay great dividends. As difficult as this is for you to accept, dear Sheep, not every month is populated with butterfly skies and creative endeavors.

In your personal life, that April sparkle that made you so irresistible is now becoming a drawback. Your sudden romantic successes have gone to your head. You seem to have forgotten how to draw the line between reality and fantasy. A little flirtation can be good for the Sheep soul. But too much could see your significant other ready to recycle you into a set of matching Sheep-leather luggage! You are beginning to risk the good things you already possess for the thrill of the unknown. It is always risky to trade a proven commodity for the mere potential of something better. Remember that!

Be careful playing the romantic field during Mercury retrograde. You might find true love turning sour on you. Do not break another's heart merely to satisfy your own vanity. The fickle, flirty Sheep of early May could end up a sad and lonely Sheep by the end of the month. You are too capricious by nature. You know that. But your head feels so much lighter up there in those fluffy romantic clouds. My advice? Pay closer attention to the people who really matter in your life. Sheep are inventive, original, even ingenious...but they are not loners. You need at least one solid foundation you can depend on. Don't blow it.

SHEEP June 2015

June crawls out of the starting gate at a sedate clip. You free-spirited Sheep may find yourselves frustrated by this snail's pace. Patience is not always one of your virtues. This slow start could see you grinding your molars down to the gums. There is no point in attempting to speed things up. Until June 11, trying to force any issue will leave you beating your head against that immutable force known as Mercury retrograde.

We all know that Sheep can be tempted to use the "little white lie" to avoid conflict. If you try that tactic in early June, your machinations will be exposed. In some highly unpleasant ways. Is there something (or someone) that you want to avoid this month? Do not sidestep them with half-baked excuses. Tell everyone the truth—you need some solitary time to do some serious home or self-improvement. Build a bookshelf or sew a set of brilliant cushion covers. Take up a new hobby. Thai cuisine or hang gliding beckon. While you're at it, why not enroll in that evening meditation class whose advertisements have always caught your eye? For someone as scatty as you, such introspection may be the answer. It will center you and help you focus on the essentials.

A contract or document is coming your way this June. But do not worry. It is a beneficial piece of paperwork. Of course you must wait until the latter part of the month to finalize things. This document is about you being repaid or rewarded. Something from your dark past is finally being vindicated. It might be a small inheritance; a thank-you gift from an elderly relative that you treated well many years ago.

By the last week of June, things will once again pick up pace. Plan a party. Show off those Thai recipes or display your spiffy new cushion covers. Add lots of bright green touches to your life, to celebrate the Wood year spirit. Crunchy salads, bowls of fresh apples and lime-scented candles will display your theme without shoving it down anyone's throat.

SHEEP July 2015

This month is a-bubble with life-affirming, creative feminine energy. This vitality is so ebullient that it

borders on the outrageous. If ever there was a time to start writing your dream novel or planning that pregnancy, guess what? This is it. If you have artistic urges, as many Sheep do, this will be your month to dazzle and innovate. Not only that, but you may even generate some income from your creativity. Your idea might be something simple, such as selling your fragrant homemade herbal soaps at the local market. But it could also be something truly grand, like hosting a one-man/woman photo exhibition in the nearest big city.

Financially, July is all about developing and marketing your creative talents. Find a way to earn money from doing what you truly enjoy. Even if your proceeds are a mere pittance at first, they might very well grow into a larger business. And if that happens, you will never “work” another day in your life. Where family is concerned, there is a similar theme of feminine fruitfulness. That could translate to rejoicing together over a longed-for pregnancy, family weddings, a coming-of-age party, or some other festive event relating to generations of women celebrating together.

July is chockablock with all things rich and indulgent. So watch your food and drink intake. Too much of the rich and sweet is bad for the digestion and ruinous for your immune system. If you err on the side of indulgence, July could become the month of heartburn, hangovers and annoying gastric ailments. Not to mention packing on some extra kilos. Enjoy some treats, but do not go overboard. And remember to ensure quick recovery from sneezes and sniffles by ingesting massive doses of vitamin C. If you find your stomach rumbling at odd hours, stuff yourself with healthy snacks. Nuts and dried fruits can satisfy a craving just as well as a bottomless bag of chocolate cookies.

SHEEP August 2015

As August arrives, a strong sense of achievement and self-satisfaction settles over you. You feel almost, dare I say, smug. Part of that supreme self-confidence stems from an outside influence. Someone you respect is giving you their undivided attention and support at the moment. This is most likely a dominant male figure. Perhaps an older relative or your boss. He has been giving you that extra boost of mojo you need to steady your emotions and forge your way forward. You are no longer hoping for boons such as a promotion or financial success. You are expecting them.

Unfortunately, the vibe is less harmonious in your personal life. A sense of endings fills the air. The foreboding atmosphere is disturbing your otherwise mellow mood. This energy does not foreshadow a literal death. More of a gnawing sense that something is about to perish. Have some red flags begun to appear in that budding relationship? Is a child reaching the age of independence? Those pangs you feel are probably the precursors of empty nest syndrome. Do not panic. Above all, do not let fear of the future turn you into a clingy mess. Behaving in an over-protective manner will only make things worse. Get a grip. Do not clutch that unsuspecting child to your breast and weep. Basically, bringing up sore subjects within your romance will only hasten its disintegration. Take a deep breath. Try to take your emotions out of the equation. Are you really anxious about these relationships ending? Or are you running from another source of angst?

In all likelihood, money worries are at the root of your current anxiety. That growing child? Yes, he or she is sprouting up like a weed. But it is not their leaving home that is bothering you. It is the expenses that their maturation will engender. They will need a car, student loans and a place to live. Or is it the new relationship that is gnawing at you? Maybe you both want to start a family, but you cannot afford a new baby. Sit down with the person in question. Discuss the situation from a cold, rational point of view. You are far more likely to figure out a workable plan of action that way. If instead you skirt the central issue, your unspoken problems may snowball into something worse.

SHEEP September 2015

The anxious indecision that plagued your personal life in August is finally dissipating. The sun is beginning to shine again. Your bank account has earned a little breathing room. At last, you can relax. Yes, you had to compromise on certain issues in August. But your concessions were worth it. Now, time for a short break. Maybe a quick trip, just you and your significant other. A weekend somewhere quiet and charming. Renting a cabin by a lake or the sea would be perfect. For optimal relaxation, slip this jaunt in during the first two weeks of September. Return home refreshed and energized.

I hope that you enjoyed your break. You need your wits about you for the second part of September. Someone is soon to enter your life who is not what he or she seems. Has an acquaintance suddenly suggested going into business together? Beware of a charming character who manages to make you feel ill at ease, even as you laugh at his or her jokes. This person can prattle on and on about their glowing plans for the future. But their ambitions are mostly motivated by self-interest. Sure, they may talk of partnerships and equal percentage. But I would be wary of signing on the dotted line until you have checked every detail. Use all the tools at your disposal to vet this shadowy customer. Run a background check. Do they have a criminal record or otherwise murky past? Wait a month. See if anything develops. Do not be blinded by their insistence that this is a once-in-a-lifetime deal. If it is that incredible, it will still be there in October. And, quite frankly, I have serious doubts about the viability of this plan. Trust your strong Sheep intuition. Does he or she make you feel like a piece of fresh meat slowly turning above the spit? If it walks like a wolf and talks like a wolf...chances are, it is a wolf. His intentions are to gobble you up, little Sheep. Flee while you still can.

SHEEP October 2015

This month, the main theme is dreams. All Sheep are idealists and lovers. Dreams—both subliminal and conscious—make your world go round. So for October, keep track of your imagined scenarios. In both senses. Try stashing a notebook beside your bed. Jot down your night visions before you rise each morning. Do not try to interpret them. Simply transcribe their events. You will be amazed by the patterns and repeated symbols that emerge within a matter of weeks.

As this Sheep year reaches its pivotal months, your subconscious mind is keen to express many of your secret motivational ideas. Read what you have written in your dream book at the end of each week in October. What stands out? Study the recurring characters or items. What feels significant? Why? You will discover a side of your psyche that you never knew existed. Prepare to be inspired.

In a more literal sense, this month is also about your conscious dreams. These are your goals for your career and your relationships. It is time to admit to yourself which desires you have outgrown. As we grow, what we want from life changes. This is a natural process. Did you want to be a fireman or a ballerina when you were seven? That wish has probably faded by this point. But Sheep have a tendency to hold on to some childish fancies for far too long. Partly out of sentimentality, and partly out of the pleasure of gently pondering what might have been.

Remember: we are in the Sheep Year. There is no better time to perform some serious mental spring cleaning. Time to dredge up those dated goals. See which ones you can retire, as well as which ones are still worth pursuing. October can be an opportune juncture to expand your personal awareness. But progress will only happen if you remain objective. Escape from delusion. Be ruthless in sorting the wheat from the chaff. If your goals from a decade ago no longer apply, ditch them. Not to worry. Exit one dream. Enter three spanking new ones.

SHEEP November 2015

November winds a shadowy path through a dark forest. Just as you have decided to head left, you find yourself veering to the right. Do not be alarmed. I am here to help you through the twists and turns. The

worst bend in November's course contains a slowly brewing storm. I am afraid this tempest could be of your own doing.

A challenge faces you. Your test is probably work-related. You knew it was festering. But instead of facing the problem, you kept ignoring it. Now, you can ignore it no longer. If you are reading this book months ahead of schedule, you can prepare for this life glitch. You can bypass the worst of the tempest. If you have not read ahead, you are probably now staring (bewildered) at a private upheaval. You are in for a bit of a roller coaster ride. Maybe you lied to your boss or were cheeky to a superior. Perhaps you engineered a plot to get rid of a colleague, and it backfired. Or you could have made a gross error and tried to conceal your misstep. Whatever happened, you got found out. This time, all your clever Sheep discourse and seductive charms will not work. Facts are not swayed by eloquent double-talk.

You may be wondering, "Why me?" The answer is simple. Instead of buckling down and getting the job done, you dithered. Procrastinated. Even tried to pretend the task did not exist. You shied away from choosing the straight, boring track of plodding through the work at hand. Instead, you chose the twisting route of self-indulgence and avoidance.

What can you do about this quagmire? Stop pretending everything is hunky-dory, for one. Humble yourself. Admit you need help. Cop to the fact that you really are to blame. Do not sugarcoat the truth. To yourself or to others. Apologize. Grit your teeth and accept your penance with bowed head. Only then can you begin to make amends.

SHEEP December 2015

This month, I am tempted to suggest you pack your bags and head off for a four-week retreat in the mountains. Just get away because your trusty old Sheep panache seems to have deserted you. Instead of embarking on your usual frolic through the festive season, a Jekyll and Hyde complex is surfacing inside you. November was a tricky month. Its tribulations seem to have left you far touchier than usual in the early weeks of December. You vacillate between naughty and nice faster than your family thought possible.

We all know how stressful the holidays can be. But is that an excuse for a mature adult to throw temper tantrums? Everything is grating on your nerves this month. So unless you find a way to restore equilibrium to your mood swings, you are going to end up being the holiday's Sheep piñata. Even the most loving friends and relatives can only take so much Sheep grouchiness. Eventually, they will react with some hostility of their own. Of all the seasons, you know full well this is the worst to rekindle family feuds. Or ignite new ones, for that matter.

Be careful in how you try to dispel your snarky mood. The danger is that you over-compensate by wallowing in all things sensual. Getting drunk and dancing shirtless on a table at the end-of-year office party might lift your spirits for a night. But it is safe to say that you will regret your performance for months to come. (Especially if a camera phone is involved.) Instead, pour yourself your favorite non-alcoholic festive drink. Turn up whatever music makes you feel warm and fuzzy. Prop up your feet and unwind before you do any pre-holiday socializing. 'Tis the season to be jolly, remember? Prepare your escape early. Once you get over the hump of the first half of the month, life will improve noticeably.

SHEEP January 2016

Thankfully, the Sheep that ate Christmas is dead. A new, brighter beast is ready to greet the new year. Whatever got into you in December is history. You are now ready to return to a state of grace and accomplishment once more. A good thing, too. Because somewhere in the first part of 2016, you are going to be called upon to do a favor. More than a token deed: an act of pure charity and compassion. Someone needs your help. Most likely a younger person. This matter may be connected to a charity that serves

children in need. The gruff Sheep of December would have yelled, “Baa humbug!” and slammed the door in charity’s face. But now, you are in a better frame of mind. You are ready to be generous with your time and/or wallet.

By mid-January, you will probably find yourself heavily involved in this worthy new cause. You are beginning to make fast friends out of the new acquaintances you have met through this venture. In the third week, be vigilant for a stranger with a love of nature or languages. They might just turn out to be your new best friend. On the surface, you have nothing in common. But you share an unspoken bond that defies explanation.

The bad news is that as this new friendship blossoms, an older partnership withers. This loss will not hit home until the end of the month. It looks like a colleague or friend is bidding you farewell. A literal death could be separating you. But it is more likely that a second marriage or job relocation is driving a chasm through your relationship. Or perhaps this comrade is retiring and moving to a sunnier clime. This loss will distress you. You abhor farewells. But cut the other person some slack. They are truly pleased to be moving on. Stomach the goodbyes gracefully. Send them on their way with your blessing. The good times you shared will never be forgotten. When we truly love someone, we want them to be happy. No matter what that costs us emotionally.

MONKEY

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR MONKEYS IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE MONKEY

Magical Monkey,

You absolutely must curb your excessive generosity during this Sheep year. Usually, when you see someone in need, you automatically dip your hand into your pocket or purse. You are not careless with money. But you have an open-handed attitude with your spare (and not-so-spare) change. You give a lot of presents. You enjoy treating your friends and family to lovely meals in charming restaurants. And taking them on trips to interesting (and pricey) places. The Sheep year may tug at your purse strings just a tad too much. So do not get devoured by an overly altruistic maw. Watch your pennies. Sheep love Monkeys. They are especially drawn to your multi-faceted creativity. In this way, you animals are quite similar. Even so, tread carefully during the coming months. Sheep are forever searching for someone to provide for them, give them a leg up and house them.

Bottom line, Sheep people are eternally hunting for a sugar daddy/mommy. If they find the right one, they can concentrate on whatever their current genius idea or artistic obsession is. Monkeys are not keen to have protégés who latch on and won't let go. So this year Monkey mine, be especially circumspect when a baleful soul asks for a handout, a loan or a great swath of your precious time. Smile. And cry poor. If it they harp at you for too long, just say NO. sw

MONKEY January 2015

You may discover by accident early this month that a recent gift you received was colored by some ambivalence on the part of the giver. Perhaps the giver re-gifted an unwanted present they got from someone else. Maybe you learn the designer perfume or “authentic” artwork you were given is actually a cheap knockoff. This discovery, although not serious, is infuriating. You do not fancy being taken for a

simpleton. Of course you can't say anything to the person who offered you the poisoned present. But you can throw it in the dustbin and forget you ever held it in your hand.

Around the 17th, you will feel itchy for some sort of change in your abode. Choose your favorite color and paint one wall of your bedroom that shade. Buy sheets and pillowcases in a hue which matches or even contrasts with the paint. Visit an antique store or thrift shop and look for some delightful item which will enhance the room. Perhaps a vase or a small framed print. If you're handy, why not make some curtains or hang just the right amount of framed drawings, prints or paintings? The effort will be worth it. You will once again have made your house your home.

You may still be mulling over that career move you contemplated last month. In the meantime, the miasma of boredom you faced then may linger on, possibly even obscuring your judgment. Sternly resist any temptation you may feel to "liven up" the office with practical jokes. Your Monkey business could backfire on you. The same goes for the kind of subtle-insults-embedded-in-compliments you pride yourself on delivering with your engaging smile. If you persist in indulging in prankish behavior, you may leave this dull job under a cloud. Recognize your boredom and your desire to raise a little office hell as symptoms of stress. Schedule an extra yoga class during your lunch break. Take a mental health day away from the office. Spend time doing whatever makes you feel relaxed and content. As the Sheep year approaches (Feb19, 2015) true peace of mind is a goal you will more earnestly pursue

MONKEY February 2015

The Sheep year begins with a burst of good luck. Unexpected winnings are in the cards. Probably from a random competition you entered and promptly forgot about. The prize could be a basket of goodies or free tickets to an event. For paired Monkeys, this jackpot arrives right in time for Valentine's day. Single Monkeys will find their own unheralded good fortune. New love beckons. But there is a catch. The object of your fancy is significantly older or younger than you. Still, the attraction is undeniably intense. Do not second-guess your feelings. If you find a magical relationship, clutch it tightly in your dexterous little hands. Savor every precious moment.

Your friendships present some challenges halfway through the month. A comrade desires your help. In campaigning for a cause or joining a protest. Your dilemma? You care more for the person than the issue. In fact, you may completely disagree with his or her ideology. Which puts you in a sticky situation. You will need all your Monkey guile to concoct a graceful refusal. You do genuinely have a busy schedule ahead of you. A self-employment project could be looming. Or a new part-time job. In the third week, work begins to accelerate. Brace yourself for some late nights. Your job may be a tough slog for a while. But well worth it financially.

That extra money could come in handy at the end of the month. You have a chance to buy into a new scheme. Its concept somehow relates to animals. Perhaps a priceless artwork depicting a bovine creature is up for sale. At a steep discount, of course. Heed my earlier warning about offering aid in a Sheep year. Only hand over your hard-earned cash if you are certain this is a genuine investment. Buying the back end of your cousin's old mule is not the same as part-ownership of a prize-winning racehorse! Besides, you should stockpile some funds for a baby gift. An acquaintance is about to announce her pregnancy.

MONKEY March 2015

As March takes the reins from February, you catch yourself staring out the window. You should be working. But your mind will not stay focused. This is not a good sign. Monkeys are prone to the blues this month. And an idle Monkey is capable of not wanting to get out of bed. Quitting your job to pursue a career as a crocodile wrestler or ballerina is not the solution for your low spirits. Nor is blowing your monthly budget on an exorbitant pick-me-up. Examine what is at the root of your melancholy. Is the job

really that bad? Or do you simply need a change in routine? Ask for more challenges at work. Perhaps a transfer to a fresh location is available.

Take a holiday break midway through the month. Given your recent gloom, I would aim to keep yourself busy on this trip. Retreating into the wilderness is not the answer. You need artificial stimulation. Shopping would be an excellent salve. Plan a trip to a nearby city. Attempt to vary your routine for a day. Why not invite a friend along? Or take a favorite sibling? All such relationships will be in your favor this week. The more loved ones you surround yourself with, the happier you will be. Few things in life are as enjoyable as shared laughter.

The end of March brings news of a death in the family. Of the furry or feathered kind. The passing will leave a gaping hole in the heart of the pet's owner. Drag the bereaved to the nearest animal shelter. But do not look for a replacement. Choose a new type of creature. That way, you can avoid stirring painful memories. For instance, an orphaned puppy will not remind anyone of dear departed Bunnikins. Trickery is afoot during the last week. Beware of someone canvassing your neighborhood. Their surveillance could be tricky and based on false pretenses. If they knock on your door, ask for ID before you give out a single personal detail.

MONKEY April 2015

Not to beat a dead horse, but I did warn you to curb your generosity in this Sheep year. Yet there you stand, a fistful of cash in hand, about to cede it to yet another needy friend. Have you checked your bank balance lately? Can you really afford to part with your last note? Be more careful with your finances this week. Money will tend to depart in larger quantities than it arrives. You may have to juggle unplanned expenses. Or forgotten overdrawn accounts. Perhaps small kitchen appliances will erupt in a proverbial puff of smoke. You will need a little extra crinkly stuff to survive until May. Be more frugal. Say no to those doe-eyed requests for handouts.

If your finances have dribbled into the red, do not despair. Cinch your belt a notch tighter. Prepare to pull yourself out of the mire. Spend mid-April in the pursuit of thrifty happiness. Invite your friends over for a potluck supper. Remember the library? That place you have avoided like the morgue since you were in school? Time for a return trip. Things have changed radically since you last caught a catnap in the mystery novel section. Most locations offer a selection of movies and music as well as books. Check the bulletin board for free events. Many libraries today also offer bring and buy programs. You bring in your old books and buy someone else's. You can make a tidy profit from auctioning off your unwanted junk.

Familial tension rises when someone loses their job. He or she was working in a computer-related field. This is not a permanent disaster. Merely a setback. He or she can craft an even brighter future from this seemingly unstable foundation. Such an outcome will probably necessitate a change of career. Perhaps even a change of nation. Watch out for a minor foot or leg injury in late April. An accident may occur away from home. You could trip while pacing the mall. Or drop a bulky object on your toes at work. You should stay off your feet for at least a few days. On the plus side, this incident seems to elicit kindness from strangers. You might even find a knight in shining armor, or a maiden in heels, to come to your rescue. Your second "fall" of the month could turn out a bit more romantic than the first!

MONKEY May 2015

A coworker needs advice in early May. An office romance has gone up in smoke. From your third-person perspective, you can see exactly where the problem lies. The object of their desire is selfish or a bully. But can your colleague handle hearing that? Or should you just keep your mouth shut? Use the proverb of the three wise monkeys as a guide. Just stifle your mouth with your hands. This person will not thank you for giving them the truth. Be comforting. Offer a shoulder to cry on. But keep your opinions to yourself. On

a lighter note, expect a small gift this week. Perhaps a modest win in the lottery.

Mercury goes retrograde on the 18th. Brace yourself for the usual collapse of human communication and electronic breakdowns. There will be fallout. Especially in your social life. One of your friends is deeply religious. This has never been a problem in your relationship. However, Mercury's influence has turned your compatriot into a preachy nag. Nothing kills the mood faster during a night out with friends than a lecture on sin. I would advise canceling all group activities with that person until Mercury reverses his orbit again. You will find simpler fun being around kids this week. A child you know has a birthday coming up. You might be called upon to chaperone the party. Or even to host it yourself!

Month's end sees you traveling to a port city. This trip is not for pleasure. Your journey relates to family. Is a relative waiting to adopt a foreign child? Or conversely, is an adopted relative traveling to their homeland? Whatever the story, this trip will elicit strong emotions. Tears? Heartache? Perhaps. But also plenty of joy. By the last week of May, you might finally cop to having a health problem. An addiction. It could be booze ... or smoking. Or even an eating disorder. Bravo! Admitting you need help is the first step. And the hardest.

MONKEY June 2015

As June dawns, you need to file an insurance claim. Unfortunately, the retrograde is making completing forms a nightmare. First, the company sends you the wrong papers. Then, the right ones arrive—but missing a vital page. You are ready to rip your hair out, one strand at a time. Be patient. This mess will blow over come the 11th. But until then, the tension is making you snap at your loved ones. To counter that, deal with your stress in a healthy manner. Nothing burns anxiety away like exercise. Does salsa dancing interest you? Perhaps the idea of a vigorous game of squash turns you on.. You need more activity. Social dining has left you a bit too well-rounded of late.

Mid-month, it comes time to assert your independence within your romantic relationship. You have begun to feel trapped. You spend so much time together that you might as well be attached at the hip. Since you are rarely alone, your individual hobbies or interests have fallen by the wayside. Your partner found them boring. So you gave them up. Sit your lover down. Explain that you need some space for solitary pursuits. This change will be a stroke of brilliance. Absence really does make the heart grow fonder. Simultaneously, business is going well. Others are taking notice of your victories. A raise or promotion could be in the cards. Keep up the good work. You may reap its rewards by the end of the month.

You may be fretting over a child or young adult around this point. This youth wants to study abroad. Or volunteer his or her services in a foreign country. They anticipate exciting new experiences. You visualize murderers, pickpockets and rapists hiding around every corner. The two of you need an objective third opinion. Is there someone you both respect who can mediate the situation? If not, list the pros and cons of such an adventure. Be fair. You cannot tally “risk of assassination” in the con section. Nor can the young adult list “opportunity for cross-cultural romances” as a pro! Do not forget an important occasion at the end of the month. A birthday or anniversary nears. Buy the card and/or gift early. Then jot the date down in your calendar or planner so you do not miss it.

MONKEY July 2015

Remember that significant event I reminded you about in late June? Well, the date is more important than you realized. A gold-trimmed party invitation is zooming toward your mailbox (or inbox) as we speak. Most likely for a wedding, anniversary or milestone birthday. The celebrants are people close to your heart. So volunteer your services. Preferably with the décor or planning. Expect to see old friends there, as well as some pleasant new faces. Married Monkeys will revel in regaling everyone with tales of the glory days. Single Monkeys may meet a potential Mr. or Ms. Right while setting tables or hauling wine

glasses. Relish the night. But be careful what you dine on. You may be allergic to something on the menu. A cat crosses your path in the middle of July. More specifically, the feline of a loved one may soon go AWOL. Tell your friend to post “Have You Seen This Pet?” pictures online in addition to plastering them on telephone poles. After a few false tips, someone will phone with useful information. Around the 15th, the butterflies in your stomach are becoming unbearable. You are soon to present a proposal before an important character. This could be a potential new boss or business investor. Are you trying to turn a part-time hobby into a full-time franchise? Ready to roll out your own line of cupcakes or cat boxes? Remain conscious of your long-term goals. If you stay focused, you have a great chance to have success in your enterprise.

You may find yourself in the do-it-yourself aisle in late July. Are you finally going to build those shelves you promised to construct so long ago? Once inside, many enticing items beckon. Before you reach for your credit card, ask yourself something. Are you really capable of installing a Jacuzzi by yourself? Are you up for renovating a kitchen alone? Unless you are lucky enough to have a handyman friend with free time to burn, step away from the complex projects. If your heart truly yearns for a spa shower with rainforest effects, start saving now. And then pay a professional to install it properly.

MONKEY August 2015

August starts with your engines revving in high gear. Your personal life is going swimmingly. But your workload is unrelenting. If you are not careful, overexertion will take a toll on your health. Constant stress does not do the immune system any favors. A cold is the last thing you need right now. To avoid medical problems, schedule some time to relax. Perhaps a brief holiday is in order. Somewhere in the countryside. A place with a soothing, refreshing energy. A place you can stroll peacefully through the forest as the sun sinks over the horizon. Where you can wriggle your little Monkey toes in the warm sand. Take as many days off as you can afford. Enjoying feeling the tension leave your body with each exhaled breath.

Unfortunately, you must return to reality at some point. But this time around, you arrive refreshed. When life gets hectic again, you will be ready to conquer its hurdles. Around the middle of the month, you have a chance to make tremendous leaps forward in all endeavors. People will stop to congratulate you for the smallest of achievements. Your cheeks glow. Strangers smile as you pass them by. Your good fortune could entail financial rewards as well. Like a slight raise. Or a bigger office. Your future is looking bright. So celebrate! Give thanks to the people who made it all possible—your parents. Or any other important mentors. Treat this person(s) to a meal. Pick a restaurant you know they will enjoy. They deserve special attention. After all, they helped to make you who you are today.

August ends with a few fireworks. You feel fantastic. But your loved ones may not share the same sentiment. Your partner has a piercing toothache. And an attitude to match. Even the dog is sulky. The owner of the sore chompers? Send him or her packing—to the dentist. The dog? Schedule some more exercise into his routine. Going for extra walks will energize both of you. But watch out for poor drivers while you and the pooch are making the rounds. Accidents abound. You are more likely to witness a collision than be the victim. The damage will be minor. But its recipient is still out for blood. Is their reaction pure road rage? Perhaps it is righteous ire after seeing a pedestrian get trampled. Most likely by a driver preoccupied with his or her cell phone. The situation could develop into a legal case, if emotions escalate. So pay attention. You might find yourself preparing a witness statement in the near future.

MONKEY September 2015

As September begins, you are once again signing paperwork. You could be a witness at a wedding or baptism. Some type of religious or legal ceremony. But your mind is already on the post-event celebration. Nothing puts a brighter smile on your face than a gathering of loved ones. Add good food and

music to the equation, and you have the perfect Monkey cocktail. If you need to buy a gift for the occasion, make it red. The Chinese color of good fortune is the ideal hue for a present. If you are going to a baptism, buy a bright red plush toy. Scarlet baby clothes are not exactly in vogue. But a crimson snowsuit or reddish overalls might work. If you are attending a wedding, slip a gift card or some cash into a bright red envelope. Newlyweds always need more money. What don't they need? Another toaster.

As we get further into September, a few minor ailments may start to crop up. 'Tis the season...for hay fever. And colds. Self-medicate with fruit juices and lots of rest. You will need your wits about you when Mercury turn retrograde on the 17th. As usual, communications unravel. But with a cruel twist this time. Perhaps you have a box of love letters from a dearly departed relative lying around. But... they are not addressed to his or her spouse! Or has a journal from your own less-than-pristine youth surfaced? Be careful where you store these documents. They could easily fall into the wrong hands. And in the current atmosphere, do not expect any understanding or forgiveness. The sleuth will be heartbroken. Or enraged. And the blame for hiding this crucial information could fall on you. So lock the evidence safely away. Or destroy it. Some secrets are better left untold.

During the last week of September, you find yourself visiting the wounded. I know you dislike hospitals. But the effect your presence has cannot be overstated. Bring the patient cheerful stories instead of flowers. Boredom is often the worst part of being laid up. Plus, you can take advantage of the time spent in the waiting room. You have a lot to ponder. A romantic endeavor is not progressing as planned. You must make some tough choices. Sparks will fly. But stay your hand. You cannot sort anything out until you are certain of your words. And positive that your love is ready to hear them. So wait until the retrograde passes. After all, timing is everything.

MONKEY October 2015

For 2015, Mercury retrograde has one last gasp. Spend it outdoors, if possible. Grab lunch in a park. Hike a nearby trail. The fresh air will clear your head. And the exercise will invigorate your body. While out and about, keep your eyes peeled for a lost item. Another intrepid nature explorer has left their wallet on a bench. Or perhaps deserted an entire backpack at a campsite. You will find contact information inside. So do the right thing. You will be rewarded for your kindness! The grateful proprietor might pay you on the spot. Or reimburse you in a more subtle manner. Who knew that the delighted owner would send their stunning brother or sister to retrieve the lost item? You were expecting to hand over the missing object. Instead, you hand over your heart! Life sure is full of pleasant surprises.

Your bank account will wax and wane in October. But relax. This fluctuation is a good thing! Money arrives as compensation for your hard work. And it will leave for the coffers of your loved ones. Ones who deserve it. This might be the only time this year to make a safe investment. A friend or relative has a business proposition. And unlike the other beggars, this person will not take your kindness for granted. He or she is a solid citizen. The kind of person who keeps to a commitment. You can trust them to repay you. But investigate their business plan nonetheless. Talk to a professional. Or do your own research online. Make sure the dream is viable before you plunge your paycheck into it.

You need to take decisive action in late October. And it all revolves around a garden shed or store room. Are you hiding all your unwanted clutter in one? Is the garden shack one rake away from exploding? Is your store room chockablock with futilities? Or does another space need to be cleaned out? Maybe it's the back bedroom. Or your office filing system. Be honest. You know exactly where your junk is hiding. And we both know that it is just that—junk. Time to roll up your sleeves. Buy a set of double-reinforced garden bags. Label them carefully. *Trash. Charity.* No need to waste what others can use!

MONKEY November 2015

Early in November, insomnia strikes. Your mind races round the clock. Your thoughts are as dark as your bedroom at 3 AM. You give up sheep-counting and tick off the hours tossing about on your mattress. Tossing does not help you drift off to dreamland. Your sleeplessness might be due to ordinary stress. But it could also be the sign of a deeper problem. Speak to a trustworthy doctor or therapist to get to the root of the issue. Taking over-the-counter medication will only exacerbate the problem.

Hopefully your sleep problems have dissipated by the middle of the month. You will need to be rested. Invitations are flooding in from every direction. Some are for the December festive season. But most are for November. Reunions abound. Official school functions, as well as personal get-togethers with old pals. Is one of these characters a former lover? Someone you never quite got over? No wonder you have insomnia!

In the third week, you are commissioned to speak in public. At a wedding or business meeting. Or perhaps your old school has invited you back to give a speech to the current students. But your mind only draws blanks. And there is no backing out of your commitment. Talk to an older, more experienced friend. Ask for advice on what to say. The internet is another bottomless resource. Certain websites have pages of pre-written addresses and jokes for every occasion. These sources will provide you with the spark of inspiration you need.

As November ends, you finally express an overdue apology. Years ago, you had a falling-out with a friend. There was an “incident.” You blamed the other party. And you have been avoiding him or her ever since. Now, in a rare moment of clarity, you realize you were just as much at fault. Act on this epiphany. Find the person, if you can, and say sorry. Take responsibility for your untoward actions. Otherwise, this feud will continue to gnaw at both of your consciences and fester. Letting go of it will elevate your mood considerably. Also, do you remember the accident you witnessed in August? If there were legal steps taken, you will hear news on that this week.

MONKEY December 2015

As the festive season starts, your mood darkens. You were hoping for ample time to gift shop. But the job has your nose to the grindstone. As soon as you finish one project, another one jumps on your back. All work and no play makes for a very unhappy Monkey! So delegate. Ask for help. Scream for it, if need be. And be willing to accept assistance gracefully. You cannot afford to be choosy. If a sloppy friend offers to cook and clean while you finish your duties, allow it. I know it sets your teeth on edge when he or she dries your dishes with the wrong towel. After all, the world will not stop turning if the wine glasses have smudges on them.

You need to start drinking more by the middle of December. No, I am not joking. Your water intake is too low. Long hours at work initiated the problem. Manic shopping sprees did not help. Sometimes, staying hydrated is the last thing on your mind. Coffee or tea does not cut it. Sodas and alcohol are even worse. Get back to plain, natural H₂O. 1,5 liters per day. Continue downing water throughout the day. Your body needs lubrication. An overseas parcel is coming your way. Make sure someone is home to sign for it. Or leave a note for the postman to deposit it with a friendly neighbor. Tell the recipient to handle the package with care. Its contents are fragile and/or edible.

If you must drive over the holidays, do not underestimate the weather. If you rocket down the highway in the snow or rain, you risk losing control of your vehicle. Adjust your speed to the conditions. As the saying goes, better to arrive late than not at all. And make a sweep of your gift cache before you embark on your travels. Did you pack all the presents? Even that tricycle you pre-ordered months ago and stashed in the cellar? You had better double-check. As December draws to an end, take time to love and be loved. That could entail a passionate embrace with your darling. Or it could translate to a cuddle session with

your grandma! This season does not have to revolve around the mistletoe, after all.

MONKEY January 2016

The first month of the new year is spent almost entirely in the shadow of Mercury retrograde. From January 5th to the 25th, expect to find communication far more complicated than it should be. Do not be surprised if this confusion leads to cross-cultural horrors at your workplace. Perhaps the server will whimsically decide to translate all the email accounts into Arabic. Or maybe your company is sending its new Asian business partner a gift basket as a token of respect. Due to a clerical error, the package contains foods considered unclean in the local culture. Consequently, be prepared to beg pardon frequently in January. Soothe your nerves with a treat at home. Buy yourself that romantic new jazz album or action movie you have been wanting. Prop your feet up. And let your mind wander far away from your job.

Friends with children are due to visit mid-month. You love kids. Still, you prefer they keep their distance from your brocade curtains and priceless collectibles. Store any precious things in a secluded closet until the kiddies' visit is over. That way, you can avoid an awkward argument with your loved ones over their offspring's' savage behavior. See what your area has to offer in the way of family entertainment. But remember to lock up your house and car while out on the town. Unruly children can be very distracting. And your valuables are worth stealing.

A relative is currently researching the family tree. They might ask you to provide some historical information near the end of the month. While digging through old photos, you will come across other memories from your own past. Of the bittersweet variety. Old school friends and long-forgotten loves. But do not let the passage of time render you nostalgic or sad. You still have many memories to create in the future. As the month ends, the brand new Monkey year (starts Feb 8, 2016) beckons. This will be a memorable epoch for you. Full of thrilling possibilities. Embrace your future with arms open wide.

ROOSTER

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR ROOSTERS IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE ROOSTER

Hardy Rooster,

The Sheep is more creative than you ever hope to be. Sheep live perfectly well by guess and by golly. They like to be free to gambol and graze in fertile fields which (preferably) don't even belong to them. You Roosters are dead serious about most everything – particularly your finances. So the capricious nature and tone of this Sheep year does not exactly enchant you. In fact, it prodigiously annoys you. Why is it so difficult to get anything done this year? How come nobody is on time? How come the schedules got altered and we have to work overtime without a break? Who stole my routine? You may grumble and grouse, mutter and moan. But trust me, it will not change a thing. The Sheep is comfortable in chaos. Especially chaos of his own design. You freak out in chaotic situations and insist order be restored illico presto. Unfortunately, you can't have it your way this year. And not getting your way tends to unnerve you. You may spend much of this Sheep year in a tizzy.

My advice? Slow yourself down. Take a mild tranquilizer. Get more sleep and stop fretting about what cannot be fixed. Your significant other will help you to relax and take it easier. And if he or she fails to calm your nerves, have a go at psychiatry. sw ROOSTER January 2015

So long as you didn't throw caution to the winds at last month's office party, this should be an excellent month for you career-wise. An idea you present gains the support of your superiors. You are invited to lunch with people a few rungs above you on the ladder. You seem to be on the inside track. That rival of yours seems to be occupied with some crisis in her/his personal life. She or he has no energy to spend on

trying to trip you up. Your rejection of that boldly confident superior of yours seems to have knocked the wind out of him/her. Instead of appearing resentful, this formerly cocky person is even a bit abashed.

Someone may come to you around the 9th with an offer related to that creative project you nurtured last year. The proposal will come wrapped in flattery, which always tends to open your ears. Caution is advised here however. This individual may be a con artist of some kind. Possibly he/she is trying to ride on the coattails of your talent. Perhaps this person is offering to publish your book in exchange for a fee. Is this really a service you need? Writers can self-publish e-books these days without resorting to vanity presses. Or maybe he or she wants to become your partner on that blog or podcast. Find out what talents or connections he or she brings to the table. Investigate the terms carefully. Ask to speak with his or her former associates. Ask searching questions.

Your friend who cheated on his/her partner may come to you seeking a place under your roof during the last week of the Year of the Horse. He or she has been thrown out by the betrayed spouse. Although you may feel sympathetic, having this person live with you even temporarily will put a strain on your relationship with your significant other. Help this buddy find a roommate to share an apartment. Or advise them about buying something of their own. Best not to keep too close company with someone whose reputation has been besmirched by sneaky behavior. Your partner is not wrong to want the person gone. With them around, the vibes at home are not terrific.

ROOSTER February 2015

February starts with the Sheep New Year (Feb 19,2015) sweeping you off your feet . You may meet someone romantic and thrilling through something related to business. Perhaps he or she is that bank teller who so sexily asked you to “sign here”? Maybe you meet this interesting someone in a queue where you pay a bill or you two will get stuck in an elevator together for a few hot minutes. Single Roosters will go home with a new phone number. Married Roosters will use the thrill to add some heat to their Valentine’s Day plans later in the month. Be careful with your keys and mobile phone this week. You are in danger of misplacing or losing them. Misplacing the mobile would be particularly tragic for the single Roosters awaiting that romantic phone call.

Mid-February you are invited out by a friend who is celebrating a birthday or new job. Another person whom you really despise is also going to be there. Try not to make it obvious and spoil the celebration for your friend. A new idea or project is about to take off at your workplace around the 17th to the 20th. Perhaps your suggestion for a new computer system has finally been heard? Or maybe that contract job you sent in a proposal for is bringing good news. This delightful turn of events came along thanks to someone who promoted you or your cause. Do not forget to thank them.

The last week of February shows you getting interested in taking up a sport. You are most likely to start with something indoors; such as weight lifting, martial arts or gymnastics. While having fun and getting into shape, you may end up making some engaging new friends as well. Look out for the person who is able to laugh at his or herself. There is a friend worth having. Watch out for some problems or small accidents related to water at the end of the month. How and what depends on where you live. You might break a bone slipping on ice or take a tumble off water-skis and dislocate a joint.

ROOSTER March 2015

You are unhappy at work in early March. Things may have been stagnant for a while. But a change of organization right now doesn’t seem to be in the cards. Why not improve your chances of promotion by adding to your skill base? Check what you need to move up, or be promoted laterally. Could evening classes give you that extra boost? If that is a problem because of time constraints or finances, you can check the Internet for free self-help and study-from-home courses that are flexible with timing too.

You will be signing some documents for a friend around the 15th. You could either guarantee a loan for your friend. Or you could be signing as witness to your friend's will or wedding. Whichever the case, your friend will be very grateful. Expect a small thank you gift later in the month. This could take the form of a check or voucher, In any case, this week sees money coming your way. Finances will be excellent with some investment you had made earlier paying off nicely now. Put the money aside for that holiday you have been dreaming of.

The last week of March finds you in the restless mood you were in earlier. You are still yearning for a change and this makes you irritable and short tempered with your colleagues and family members. When did you last walk the dog? Do you remember what your partner spoke to you about in bed last night? Slow down. Take an evening off to enjoy your home life. Cuddle up on the couch together. Let the significant other do the talking for a change. Listen and reply. Give the cat a cuddle as well. In your distracted mental state, do not forget an important appointment at the end of the month. Write it down.

ROOSTER April 2015

There is a key event in early April. It could be a family anniversary, christening or wedding. You may be asked to help out with the food and seating arrangements. Get ready because you will be making and baking or being the designated driver of twenty boxes of fine cutlery and glassware. Enjoy being busy and useful, but try not to be bossy with other family helpers. Work as a team. Expect to hear some juicy gossip while you work. Everyone is stunned to hear that cousin Charlie has run off with his male golf partner or that great aunt Mary has sold up her belongings to run away and become a Buddhist nun.

Be careful with your spending around the 12th. There may be an unexpected expense this week. Your vehicle or a kitchen appliance may need urgent repairs. Start preparing now by cutting the frills from your shopping list. Buy in bulk at the cheaper places. Swap the snobby brands for things more sensible. Yes, you can survive without that French pate and exotic Italian cheese. Put them back. Take your lunch to work rather than eating out.

An unexpected visitor knocks on your door in late April around the 27th or the 28th. It is probably a salesperson, trying to get you to buy their product or espouse their zany religion. This one is particularly pushy. Do not let them in. Or you could find yourself sitting there five hours later still trying to get them to go. A sick animal or an injured wild creature crawls into your yard. Be careful. In both cases, you stand a good chance of being bitten by a terrified animal. Call in an expert for help.

ROOSTER May 2015

May begins with one of your loved ones landing in the hospital. This is not a life-threatening event, but he or she may be feeling a little fragile. Take them some thoughtful gifts. A soft fluffy bed jacket? Ask them what they really are craving as a treat food rather than simply carrying fruit or chocolate for them. There is good news at work. Could you finally be up for that promotion? Someone been watching and taking note of the extra hours you put in. They might be impressed with your innovative suggestions. You will be seeing positive results and recognition between the 4th and the 9th.

Mercury retrograde strikes on the 18th. As always, expect all communications to go awry. This month there is a particular warning of accidental damage. This will most likely be more cringe worthy than harmful. Sexy texts could be sent to your mother instead of to your lover. Email complaints about friend A could be landing in friend A's email box instead of friend B's. Be extra careful and check the address twice before you hit the send button. A trip to visit family ends the week. It might be the beginning of a holiday together or merely a weekend visit. Family gatherings are always a mixed blessings and especially treacherous during a retrograde. Keep all strong opinions to yourself or there will be more tears than fun.

Your libido crashes by the end of the month. The jaded listless feeling is more due to you being in a rut than with the wrong person. Find some way to spice things up for yourself. How about taking a sultry dance class together? Or go retro and recreate those moments when you first met and everything was thrilling. Take your lover back to where you first kissed. Cook them that special meal which always reminds you of your honeymoon. Watch out for silly accidents and minor injuries to your head or knees around the 27th.

ROOSTER June 2015

June begins with the retrograde influencing all things related to food. You order vegan at the restaurant and you end up with steak. Your grocery bill states that your simple purchase of dog food is actually Russian caviar that costs more than your monthly paycheck. Not much you can do but be aware and hold out until the 11th when things return to normal. Someone in your family is buying a pet this week. Tell them to be careful who they purchase from. Backyard breeders often sell animals with serious health issues. There is nothing more heart breaking, or expensive, than a sickly pet.

Romance is still tepid in mid-June. Even with my advice last month to spice it up, you still feel a distinct lacking in your relationship. This is because you are holding back. Not allowing yourself to be emotionally open. And this, in turn, is a killer for any other kind of intimacy. When last did you allow yourself to be vulnerable? Or simply hold hands? You have to open your heart and let your lover in. Do not forget a close friend later this week. You are thinking of sending them flowers. Do remember that they have a distinct allergy to a specific flower or hate a certain color.

You are in danger of impulse buying in late June. Do watch yourself in the shops and malls. I know the sales are deliciously tempting, but do you really need the exact same belt or shoes in five different colors? Part of the problem is that you have been neglecting yourself lately. Too busy is not an excuse. Take an evening to write down what is missing from your life, your regrets and fears. Swear to let go of anything that is out-dated or dragging you down. Then make a complete list of new hopes, dreams and plans.

ROOSTER July 2015

Early July sees you raiding the bank account to take care of some home repairs or improvements. Your finances are in a particularly healthy state, so this is an ideal time to consider adding on that extra bathroom or revamping your decor. If you are thinking of redecorating this is the ideal year to think earthy colors. Soft woodland greens with splashes of rich berry purples and reds. Your frenetic activity will draw interest from someone in need of a loan. Could be a close friend or sibling. Suggest they pay it off by helping you with your DIY projects.

You will be happily signing paperwork related to cars around the mid-July. You could be purchasing a new ride or receiving a pay out on a traffic accident. Either way you will celebrate. Pick somewhere new as your restaurant choice. This is an adventurous Sheep year, so be daring. Try a Moroccan Tagine or a Thai curry. Do not worry about the calories. You will be burning them off this month when you get back to working out in the gym.

There are some annoying phone calls around the last week this month. Two friends or family members are at odds and both are calling you to complain about the other. If you can avoid them, do so. If not, do not get involved beyond grunts and sympathetic noises. This is their fight, not yours. And neither of them is being completely truthful about who said what. Take a break at the end of July, to rest and relax. Pick somewhere tranquil. Fishing on a lake or lazing on a beach. If you cannot manage to get away, drag a chair out into the back yard or into the sunshine. Read a book, meditate or nap.

ROOSTER August 2015

You are busy planning an itinerary early in August. It could be plane or bus tickets for a forthcoming trip. It might even be a cruise ship or ferry. This is a long-planned treat - a special anniversary or reunion. You feel somewhat anxious, as this journey will be expensive. Do not fret. You can economize over the coming months to make up the deficit. There are other ways to boost your savings. Your home has become seriously cluttered in recent years. Turn your junk into cash with a garage sale. Or put your unwanted items up on Internet sales sites.

A social gathering between the 12th and the 16th finds you doing or saying something humiliating. You may feel appalled and embarrassed. But the truth is that people will barely notice. You could be winding yourself up over this for nothing. No one cares, except you. Laugh it off and let it go. At home, things are a lot more peaceful and good news cheers you up. A child winning a prize. Or a young adult having the chance to study their dream subject. Tell them how proud you are of them.

Your workplace becomes a war zone sometime around the 24th as someone in charge turns into a Mr. or Mrs. Hyde. This person seems to want your head on a platter. But the cause has nothing to do with you. He or she is taking personal frustrations out on other colleagues. If you know this person well enough – ask them out for a quiet lunch and see if you can get them to talk. If not – just try to avoid them until this issue resolves itself. Beware of fire related injuries in August. Minor accidents are likely, such as barbecues flaring up and toasting more than the burgers. Or there may be carelessly thrown cigarette butts setting trash bins smoldering.

ROOSTER September 2015

September 4th or 5th is likely to find you in an introspective mood. Sudden news of a friend either leaving or joining a new religion has left you contemplating your own spirituality. Perhaps it is time to move on to something new? Or will you want to return to the comfort of your childhood beliefs? Whichever you choose, this shift will have a positive effect on your life. At work there is an upcoming chance of advancement. Or there may be a lucrative new contract for self-employed Roosters. This is exciting, but be prepared to wait patiently for it to unfold. It's not a done deal yet and the Mercury retrograde, which begins on the 17th, could turn tentative deals into nightmares of red tape.

Mid-September you could be volunteering to help animals. This work might be simply making a donation to a local animal charity. But it is more likely a hands-on job where you help out in person. The experience may turn out to be more satisfying than you expected. You are likely to meet and make a new friend there. Single Roosters might even be tempted to take this charming stray human home to cuddle. Talking of cuddling; this is the ideal time to find a kitten or a puppy for a neighbor or relative who is grieving a loss. He or she needs the unconditional love of a small, irresistible pet. I'm sure they will accept to choose one, when you casually stop by with an armful of homeless cuties.

This month ends with you looking back in order to move forward. A relationship from your past is haunting you. This is a troubled relationship with an older person – mentor, teacher or relative. You need to confront them and talk it out, or use some other way to find closure. Perhaps talking to a therapist or someone you trust and respect will help. The bitterness, resentment and anger you are harboring are only harming you. Watch out for loss of money or valuables while out and about around the 28th. Do not leave anything unattended in your vehicle while you are shopping.

ROOSTER October 2015

A shocking piece of news has everyone whispering in early October. Someone you know has just admitted to an addiction – either drugs or alcohol. This is not a young person, which is why everyone is so stunned. This character needs support. Discourage lurid speculative gossip. Prove your friendship by telling the rumor-mongers to shut up and move on. At home you feel bored with the usual meal routine. Why not try

some creative cooking? Look up recipes online. If you are completely clueless – look out for cooking classes in your area or ask a relative to give you a few lessons.

You could find yourself suffering from a niggling ailment around the 11th. Seems it's an itchy, irritating rash. Do not self-medicate. The wrong ointment will only make it worse. Go talk to a pharmacist or see your doctor. Later in the month you might try out your new culinary skills by inviting some friends over for a dinner party. If you are a beginner, do keep it simple. No hard-to-prepare exotic ingredients, please. You want your guests to leave happy, not nauseated.

A long-term project is coming to an end late in October and could leave you with a sad feeling. Is it a self-employment contract or a group hobby or art project? Unfortunately, things have to end in order for others to begin. And there are better pastimes on the way. You seek legal advice between the 24th to the 29th. This matter relates to a dispute over ownership of something - car or even a property. The trouble is the result of the fabrication of an angry person seeking revenge rather than justice. They are in the wrong. But if they are intent on deriving pleasure by causing you headaches, they will persist. Try to find someone who can act as a mediator before this tug of war goes too far.

ROOSTER November 2015

A hobby is turning slowly into a money-spinner in early November. Something that started out as a mere pastime takes off in a bigger way now. At first, friends wanted you to make them similar funky rhomboid bookshelves. Or they are clamoring for more of your homemade preserves. From there the market spreads to friends of friends and suddenly you have a whole side-business on the go. You might be on the brink of turning this into a serious business, but only if you are willing to take a partner -someone you trust to do the mundane book-keeping and deliveries. Choose wisely.

A distant relative gets in touch and asks you for help on a family tree. It sounds boring, but you could be surprised at what you manage to unearth together. A long-lost pirate in the family? An ancestress who was a suffragette? The past can hold surprising mysteries. You are in your best element at work. You are likely to be showered with praise for your cool head and decision-making skills between the 13th and the 15th. This matter relates to you saving the day, or even saving a co-worker from harm. It is heady stuff, but try not to crow too proudly. A little humility will earn you more respect from your peers.

In the third week of November, you might find yourself nursing a broken heart. Has your lover forgotten your anniversary? Did you stumble onto steamy emails sent to him/her from someone else? It is up to you whether this is reparable damage or the end of the road. You will need to dash later this week when you nearly miss an important appointment. Is a watch or clock running slow? Might be time to buy a new one. Do check the batteries first.

ROOSTER December 2015

December starts with you plotting your holiday shopping like a general preparing for war. And then... a virus or cold strikes and kicks you out of the game for a full week. All your plans foiled by a tiny bug. Do not despair. Even at home with a fever and a nose redder than Rudolph's you can still pull this off. The answer is online shopping. You can do it with a blanket over your knees and a mug of soothing something in one hand. And there are always gift vouchers if you get desperate. Take care of your health first. Bulk up on vitamin-rich fruit juices and fresh vegetables, as much as possible.

With rest and TLC, you should be feeling much better by the 10th. That is a good thing too as you have several social invitations hereafter you really do not want to miss. One of them is to a concert. Could be an early Christmas gift or a group outing of friends. You will have a wonderful night. The same cannot be said for a party later the same week. Someone at the party may imbibe too much spirits and keep trying to flirt with you. You of course resist the slobbering advances. But they see your rebuttal as a challenge. This

behavior makes for a tiresome evening. Leave early and go watch a good movie at home.

Expect a surprise visitor in late December. - someone who has traveled a long way to see you. There will be tears of joy. Get out the man-sized Kleenex. You two have a lot of catching up to do. Near the very end of December you will have to stand firm when a family disagreement teeters on the edge of becoming a battle. Someone older thinks you behaved foolishly. They still treat you like a child. You will need to defend your decision calmly and firmly to prove them mistaken.

ROOSTER January 2016

Mercury is retrograde almost the entire this month. The zippy planet rides backwards between the 5th and the 25th. This planetary glitch could make this last month of the Sheep year into a bumpy ride. Try to avoid signing legal documents and beware of sending text messages. They will go astray. And documents are not the only thing being lost this month. You will misplace and then find some vital possession this month - your bank debit card or your wallet, your smart phone or your dog.

Someone has a proposal this month. It might be romantic, but it could as easily be a partnership of the business kind. Either way, a retrograde is not the best time to be making a decision. Tell them you need time. Be kind, but firm. Wait until after the 25th to be certain your mind and heart are in agreement. Watch out for a faulty electrical appliance mid-month. One of your items is about to die. You have already noticed a problem. Your hair drier crackles and turns on off when it gets too hot. Your electric razor is making a strange whining noise. Be prepared to buy a new one before the month is over.

A new friendship has you on edge around the 23rd this month. You argue constantly; but could that be part of the attraction? The very fact you are so different challenges you both to widen your vistas and see new perspectives. Challenging? Maybe, but with humor and mutual respect this relationship is well worth the effort. You are due to go on a short trip at the end of January. It's strictly business, not a holiday. You did not choose the accommodation, which is a pity. There is something decidedly off-putting about your room. Check the bed sheets and towels before you use them. If they are not satisfactory, ask to change rooms.

DOG

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR DOGS IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE DOG

Devoted Dog,

In this year, insecurity tends to color everything for you pooches. The Sheep means no harm to Dogs. In fact, Sheep people get along swimmingly with their Dog cronies. Too, Dogs enjoy company of all types. But they particularly enjoy the company of open-minded Sheep people who listen attentively to their criticisms about everything from man's inhumanity to man to bias and discrimination against the poor and unwashed. So rest assured. The Dog's causes and beliefs will not be threatened or undone in this Sheep year. You may, indeed, get things accomplished that you did not expect to be able to carry through on.

However, you are more comfortable not having to bear the weight of more than yourself in life. You are not unreliable. But you do not fancy being depended on. The Sheep lives to depend. So in this Sheep year, you feel listened to. But you may also feel leaned upon. Beware of offering your shoulder to cry on once too often and ending up with someone who wants to be able to count on you for repeated rescue for the rest of their natural life. Your most challenging assignment this year is: Fend off sycophants! Keep clear of freeloaders and wend your way speedily past any and all creatures who fancy living at your house, eating your food and watching your TV until they “get back on their feet”. If you let them come and stay, they may still be there next year in the next Dog and Pig years. You have a good heart. My advice? This year, don't wear it on your sleeve.

DOG January 2015

That risk you took last May, investing in your own talent, begins to pay glorious dividends this month. Perhaps you get an offer to do the voice-overs in a well-known cartoon television show. Or the query and

first chapters of your book have netted you a contract and a handsome advance check. Or maybe those gallery owners will contact you, asking about a show. Use this time to celebrate your achievement. Take at least a brief trip. Visit one of your favorite cities for an extended weekend. Buy yourself some new clothes. Invest in a comfortable, stylish pair of shoes. Get a good haircut. After all, you want to project the cleaned-up version of yourself which bespeaks a certain degree of confidence and success.

Save at least part of the money you earn. You will need to attend to a problem with your home that will likely arise around the 16th. The planetary portents indicate some kind of leakage. Perhaps heavy ice will create a hole going from your roof to your bedroom ceiling. It's definitely to do with water. A plumbing problem or a sewer backup. Be especially careful during this period that you do not leave water running for too long. Untended sinks and bathtubs can and do overflow. Each time you run the water anywhere, put on your kitchen timer. When it dings, run and shut off the faucet.

While out with friends around the 22nd, you may meet an intriguing new love interest. This person will exert a magnetic effect on you. You will recognize this individual by his or her mesmerizing eyes; and will probably find yourself gazing into them as if hypnotized. Enjoy the flirtation. However, people do have baggage. On your first date, ask a few pertinent questions relating to marital status, health history, family background etc. Baggage is one thing. But some people hide secrets inside their valises and trunks from the past. No matter the attraction, don't set up housekeeping with this character - or anybody else until you have been "going steady" for at least 18 months. It takes 18 months for the warts to show up. Give you new couple a chance. But do take it slow.

DOG FEBRUARY 2015

A new year always brings a furry frown to a Dog's brow. All those possible pitfalls and future unknowns to worry about. Doggy mine, set the anxiety aside, please. This is exactly why you bought this book, remember? Not to sit and fret over what might go wrong each month, but to read and plan ahead so that you can dodge or ease through this year's potential problem areas.

Sheep years are often more about pleasure than responsibility. Sheep are the fun-loving bohemians of the Chinese zodiac. They choose the easy road every time. Like Peter Pan they'd much rather not grow up and wear sensible shoes. I know this wanton disregard for decorum probably sets your sensitive Dog nerves on edge. But it does bode well for an easygoing year. So let's get down to the details you so adore and start mapping the safe and secure path you long for. As the Sheep year starts over halfway through February there's not much new to say for the first half of the month. It begins in a low key mode. Your energy levels may be equally subdued. In fact, you'll be feeling quite limp and uninspired. But this will change as the new Chinese year's hectic energy kicks in.

For now I'd say fill up on the fresh veggies and orange juice and get thee to the gym. Nothing improves both a sagging morale and flabby physique more than a sweaty workout. Trust me. You particularly want to work on your physique as we head toward March. A hint of romance wafts through the air in the last week of February. This fragrant undercurrent could very well foretell the rekindling of a passionate fire or it could light an entirely new flame. Either way, a sad and sagging Dog will not prove romantically appealing. So get up from your bed on the hearth and start to move. If gyms depress you, take Zumba lessons or try speed walking. Remember. Discerning lovers take home the well-proportioned cute cuddly dog, not the droopy listless mutt. So be more active so as to be ready for a productive new year.

DOG MARCH 2015

The theme for March, dear Doggy, is "dare" and that is especially true where love is concerned. There it is! Just as I predicted – romance is flashing its headlights at you in the first weeks of March. This love interest might be someone new. But it could equally mean the rekindling of an established liaison. For

example, you might find yourself peering across the dinner table at your spouse of several decades and suddenly sense a rekindling of the old fire that first drew you together. Or... just when you swore you would never fall in love again, you meet someone enchanting.

You're feeling like a young pup - thrilled and eager to romp. When that exciting person smiles shyly as you pass by, in the office hallway or at your favorite coffee shop, dare to smile back. To hasten the rekindling in your marriage, go ahead and make the move. Say more than just a kiss on the cheek hello. Take a chance. If the object of your affection is already sharing your life, then dare to try something new together. Take steamy Salsa classes together or hie your true love off to a romantic weekend rendezvous. Get away from the kids. Ditch the everyday humdrum.

The theme of accepting a dare is also showing up in your work life and professional plans. Have you been secretly dreaming of starting your own business or applying for an exciting new career opportunity? March is the month to make that bold leap. We both know you are not the reckless type. Before you go after anything, you have always done the math, calculated the risks and weighed all the pros and cons. Now you can stop stewing and adding up columns of figures. Stop watching and waiting to see what could go wrong and start focusing on what will go right.

DOG APRIL 2015

April starts with some minor setbacks. Many of them could be your own fault. By living in fear of what might go wrong, you're actually creating new problems or aggravating existing ones. Ask yourself: Am I shooting myself in the foot? Long run, these little hiccups don't amount to much. They are related to work. Could be pitfalls in starting a new business venture or when beginning a new job. Making mistakes is not punishable by law. We learn by our mistakes. The key is to overcoming them is to recognize them as ours. Then we are halfway to implementing the necessary modifications.

By mid month the pace will speed up. No more time to fret and chew your nails to the quick. Whether you like it or not, a major change is headed your way. On the home front, the ambiance is stormy. This time it's not your fault. Someone in the family is bickering with someone else and you are caught in the middle. I know how it is. They are both appealing to you saying, "He said/She said" in furious outrage. Of course it's tempting to get involved. But for the sake of your own self-preservation, please lock your lips and throw away the key. Nod sympathetically, offer hugs and a shoulder to cry on, but don't be give any opinions. When the pugilists tire of pulling each other's hair out by the roots, this tempest in your family teapot will die down naturally.

Your health is outstanding this month and your creative energy is high. This is a perfect combination for tackling any handyman/woman jobs around the house. You feel the urge to build something tangible, maybe cookies or preserves or shelves in the office or a simple repair you've been avoiding. To help alleviate the tension caused by the above-mentioned feud, recruit both warriors to help you build a new patio or a barbecue in the back yard. Make it fun. By the time you're ready to throw your first big family barbecue. You might find they have forgotten what they were squabbling about.

DOG MAY 2015

May starts with plenty of promise and then fizzles to a crawl midway through the month. The slowdown is due to Mercury retrograde. Unfortunately, like death and taxes, there's no escape from this menace. It strikes on May 18th and doesn't leave us alone until June 11th. During this period, sign no binding contracts. Make no major decisions. Mercury retrograde presents obstacles and delays and often plays havoc with electronics and appliances. Do not despair. You will triumph in the end.

One way to lighten that overburdened feeling is to step away from some of your commitments. Prioritize. I know you like to help out. But you cannot possibly do everything at once. Nor can you take care of

everyone you know at the same time. The world will not stop turning if you take some time off to dangle your paws in the ocean or relax on the sofa with a gripping book and a chilled glass of fruity wine. In fact, a few more R and R moments might actually improve your energy and productivity. Do remember that pesky Mercury retrograde mangles all forms of communication. You must not risk sending life-altering documents via email this month. You don't want that important contract or job application to vanish into Internet oblivion. If your document needs urgent attention – get it sent out before May 18th.

Expect the last two weeks of May to be rife with conflict. Be prepared to sit tight and wait for the squalls to pass over. Be furious if you must. But keep your cool. In hindsight, you will see there was no point becoming visibly cross. Let everyone else be freaked out. Watch out for a sudden urge to release tension in road rage or impulsive, angry emails. Don't let off short-term steam. That kind of folly could dump you into long-term trouble.

DOG JUNE 2015

As if in keeping with that retrograde cloud hanging over us until June 11th, you enter June somewhat discombobulated. Could it be a bug you picked up? Or a niggling health issue? Or a pesky recurrent nightmare you have yet to decipher? You feel confused and out of sorts. Unless you stop fretting, give a listen to your body's warning signals and take immediate action, the current befuddlement may blow up into something quite nasty. See your physician for a complete health check up. And remember to take your vitamins and supplements. You might want to try meditation.

When the second half of June arrives, you will want to be in tip top condition. This period promises to offer you a fortnight of good luck and extra energy. New, happier ideas come bounding into your dreams. The scary nightmares have fled the coop. You feel full of self-belief and creative zeal. Naturally, you'll feel an intense urge to share your new sense of empowerment with others. You are on a one man/woman mission to change the world person by person. Dogs always are drawn to caring and nurturing. And in this month of June those urges take a more pro-active, dynamic turn. You might find yourself impulsively offering to coach a sports team for disabled kids. Or you could volunteer to tutor a struggling student in Calculus - for the simple pleasure of seeing the lights go on in their mind and shine out their bedazzled eyes. Or you could agree to baby sit for a pack of unruly kids. Not only will sharing your gifts with others give you immense personal satisfaction; it will turn right around and reward you in other ways.

Share your talents this June. Act out of true philanthropy. You may not believe me but you will receive unexpected gifts of gratitude from the Universe. That math-challenged boy or girl you helped this June? He/she has a doting father who just happens to be the financier you sent your new business loan request to. The turbulent children you watched have a rich grandmother who wants to send one of your kids to college. The more you share your talents in late June, the more the good luck will smile upon you.

DOG JULY 2015

July starts sluggishly. You may feel lazy and less driven in the first part of the month. You will be more open to kicking back and curling up with a good book or some DVDs you've been meaning to watch. The theme this month is travel and exploration. You might do both of those via books or the Internet or (if you can summon the gumption) on a real adventure trip somewhere exotic. If your budget doesn't fancy costly flights and hotels then get out a map of your hometown and environs. Pinpoint somewhere you've never been before. Take some hikes around and about. You may find there are remarkable sights right on your back doorstep. Why not spend a day at the local art gallery - the one you've driven past a thousand times and never bothered enter? Or attend a theatrical or an opera in a neighboring city. Whatever you do during this rather lay back period, enrich your mind and stimulate your learning centers. That's what fallow periods are all about.

Middle of the month you will return to your real world occupations and notice how creative you are feeling. Nothing more salutary than a change of scene and pace for innovation. Renews perspective. The fresh ideas you come up with after your break in routine may indeed spur the boss to offer you a long-awaited promotion. Perhaps you won't get that raise or boost from the higher-ups right away in July. But your improved vitality and novel ideas will soon register with the powers-that-be; and they will begin to earmark you for a more prestigious position.

Remember please. There's an important anniversary or birthday on the horizon this month. Do not forget. If you do, you will be in the doghouse with someone dear to you. Buy a gift early. Think about what the person desires - instead of what you think might be best for them.

DOG AUGUST 2015

Remember that heart-pounding sensation of love and passion you were experiencing in March? Well, it's back with a vengeance in early August. This time, instead of you being suddenly smitten, it's the other way around. You've become utterly irresistible - to more than one person. It's a bit overwhelming to find yourself so alluring. Having a sexy person that you have found so attractive show attraction back is heady stuff. But in the first ten days of this month it's not only those you fancy who like you - it's random strangers you could very well do without. Everyone needs to be loved, but when the baby-sitter starts leaving love letters in your underwear drawer or the new girl/guy at work follows you everywhere like a lost puppy, it can become a bit creepy. Good news is that this weird magnetism won't last longer than a fortnight. Then you'll be back at home base.

On the other hand, mid month, your current main squeeze relationship could begin to cool down or even come to a halt. If so, this period of time might prove to be a genuine heart breaker. Try drowning your sorrows in a good soup. Soup? Yes, soup. Cook up a batch of homemade bread and make chicken broth from scratch. Not only will chopping all those vegetables and pounding back the bread dough relieve your emotional doldrums. But you'll have the satisfaction of consuming a healthy meal to treat your soul and senses.

Late August could see you coming down with a cold. Sniffles are soothed by a generous bowl of the leftover chicken broth you made and froze last week. Better luck comes to you financially at the very end of August. Maybe just a small windfall. Or a gift from a doting relative. Not to worry. The amount will be just enough to cheer you up and help you deal with that drippy nose.

DOG SEPTEMBER 2015

After last month's upheavals, you probably want to stay clear of Cupid's arrows. No matter how you feel, there's still a love and romance theme in the air. This time, much to your relief, Cupid's arrows are not falling in your underwear drawer. Still, you are bound to be involved. You might be the mother of the bride, the son of the widowed or divorced parent who has finally found love again, or it could be that a close friend wants help moving across country to set up housekeeping with their new love. You are the Dog. You always help out.

Sorry to say, Mercury turns retrograde on us all on September 17 and stays that way till the 9th of October. These Mercury retrogrades are glitch city. Wedding invitations can get lost in the mail. Double up and send important mail by post as well as by email. Promises get broken. Pre nuptial agreements might be hashed through and returned to sender. Mercury has a particularly wicked sense of humor this August and will try to trip you up. Don't sign binding agreements or make life-changing promises during this time. They are too likely to backfire.

The last week of September will be joyful. Looks like an addition to the family. Could be a baby, a cat, a gerbil or hamster. But knowing you, it's most likely to be Pooch. Dogs simply adore dogs. If you don't

already have one (which would surprise me) get thee to the animal rescue center and choose yourself a pup. Nothing a Dog person loves more than company.

At the end of September I see you confronted with a thorny issue. It's not just a gnarly rosebush either. Someone you considered a close friend and ally, may turn on you. A rumor gets started which causes your entourage to doubt your ability to fulfill your obligations at work. At first, when you discover that the source of the bad mouthing is your dear friend, you can hardly believe it. You never would have guessed in a million years that he or she was capable of undermining your reputation. Whether caused by jealousy or sheer underhandedness, this obstacle is real. Nothing upsets you more than injustice. My advice? Chop off that friendship and make no bones about it.

DOG OCTOBER 2015

On October 9th Mercury goes direct. Then we can all breathe easier. No more garbled communications or frustrating misunderstandings. We can freely sign documents and stop fretting about our electronics going kaplooie. Unfortunately the retrograde residue of the previous weeks may linger longer, making you a slightly irritable, snappy mutt till the 15th.

You can ease the tendency to play grouch by getting more exercise now. The second week of October is the perfect time to get moving on new kinds of workouts. Do some yoga or Pilates. Join an exercise class. Or learn to practice a sport you have always found inspirational. It doesn't have to be competitive. You are not as interested in competition as you are in perfecting your serve in badminton or mastering a few tricky yoga poses. October is also the month to return to eating the five recommended fruits and veggies per day. In order to do so, either you have to learn to cook or find restaurant chefs (or a spouse, lover or family member) who know how to prepare delicious dishes with those same vegetables and fruits. If you eat meat. Do so in moderation. And cut down on wine. Try a glass of wine followed by a glass of water. Don't slug. Sip.

There's a very juicy business opportunity inching your way this month, something meaty you can get your teeth into. Toward the end of October, when you meet the people who are offering this chance, mind your manners. These folks have clout with everything from influential higher-ups to banks and other lenders. If you want to impress them with your skills, do so discreetly. But refrain from barking out those doggie bloopers you are so famous for. "Is that tie real silk?" "Are you wearing a wig?" sort of thing. Dogs perceive things more critically than others which can be useful when judging a bathing beauty contest. But when negotiating business deals, bumptious remarks are best kept under lock and key. Your chronic disregard for the feelings of others can be quirky and charming. It can also be boorish.

DOG NOVEMBER 2015

Looks like November 2015 will range from exciting to chaotic, depending on whether you heeded some of my advice in October. If you managed to get that funk and those faux-pas remarks under control, November promises worthwhile challenges and a multitude of interesting occasions for growth. If you remain sulky and outspoken where you shouldn't be, you'll need to do some serious scrabbling to keep up.

The intense creative Wood Sheep energy is everywhere this month. Trust me, it will be intense. At best it could be your month to really rocket forward into a better brighter future. No matter what you do for a living this month is all about creativity and artistry. Anything you do with creative flair will be a success, especially if it involves thinking out of the box. Avant-garde might seem easier to pull off as a designer than if you're something like a secretary or truck driver, but it's all about taking the everyday and looking at it from a different angle. Change, innovate, create. Go a little crazy and see where it takes you. I'm talking funky and fun. Set your world ablaze with some stunning new concepts for a health food and

sandwich bar at your kids' school. Make your workmates mouths drop open at your innovative idea for a mouse pad that doubles as a coffee mug holder. Be a force to be reckoned with, Dare to blaze a trail.

And speaking of blazing, someone unusual in your life is going to set your heart and mind afire. It is a woman. Someone with an innate passion for living. She's sexy, exciting and full of vitality. She is either the woman you want to be with or the woman you want to be. Be ready to welcome change and accept advice and counsel from this exceptional human being. She will alter the direction of your life - maybe without your even knowing it. But come 2016, you will recall a late November 2015 meeting, counseling or gab session and remind yourself that it was she who taught you how to eliminate toxic people and focus on your own path.

DOG DECEMBER 2015

December commences with clear blue skies for about a week. You're in tiptop form. You feel vibrant, alive and ready to take on the massive amount of work you have created for yourself. Your mind is clearer and your eyes bright. You will receive a disturbing piece of mail during the first couple weeks of the month. It could be a bill you weren't expecting. But it's more likely to be a poison pen letter. A colleague at work might think he or she is being funny by implying in this missive you are having an affair. If you think hard, you will be able to guess who it is and give them a piece of your mind.

The start of December is the perfect time for inspiring admiration and loyalty in those who know you. You've always been respected for your honesty. Even if the caustic nature of your comments does grate at times. Interestingly, a possible major bother is brewing this month. Someone out there is watching you - someone who wants what you have. They'd like to usurp your good fortune: your job, your friends and/or your girl/guy. They may even be conjuring some tricks to trip you up. Keep your ears pricked up and your radar peeled. Eventually they will discover that they are way out of their league. Nonetheless it looks like they are seeking an adversarial battle royal. Too bad for them. They have picked the wrong month to compete with a determined Dog. Long run, they will lose.

On the home front, holiday chaos takes over at the end of the month. You will feel wonderful surrounded by family and friends during the season. Nothing helps you relax better than good company. Do not be surprised if a family member's spouse flirts with you. Be as discreet as possible about making clear you are not interested. That is one messy kind of trouble you do not need.

DOG January 2016

The Dog warrior of December becomes the Dog worrier of January. The bills from the December shopping frenzy begin to arrive. You quake at the pallor of your bank balance. You realize now (in hindsight) that in December you were a bit drunk on your recent success and had a wad of extra cash in your paws. Not like you to go overboard. Okay you did it. You have run up some debt. But it can be whittled away with your dogged perseverance and determination. Have a chat with your bank manager. Bankers like honest straightforward people like you. They tend to prefer granting overdraft privileges to folks who confess to their excesses than with clients who come crying victim.

It's Mercury retrograde again. Starts January 5, 2016 and lasts till the 25th. Plunk in the Middle of January something goes wrong with the electricity at home. Could be a storm or a glitch in the central system. Fair warning. Do not tinker with electricity. You can be a competent mender of broken possessions and you are talented for building fires in the fireplace or chopping wood. But electrical matters are best left to the experts. Make sure your shoes have rubber soles when you plug in the iron or the electric saw. Call the central utility bureau to be sure it's not their fault. If it isn't, you better call in an electrician.

The last week of January (after the 25th when Mercury has gone direct) you will receive some paperwork about a certain project you had thought was defunct. But apparently it isn't. You initiated this innovative

idea awhile back and fished around to get funding for its implementation. But at that moment nobody picked up the bait. These new documents put things in a new perspective. By the end of 2016 (Year of the Monkey) you might be running your own business selling a product of your own design.

12 MONTHS OF FORECASTS FOR PIGS IN 2015

Author's Note... Mercury Retrograde

Sometimes planets appear to be zooming backward through the zodiac. Of course this backward motion is only an illusion. The planet has not turned tail. But it appears to have. Astrologers call this apparent reversing: “**retrograde**”.

Any planet can be retrograde. But only Mercury's retrogrades cause communications to break down. Mercury has its retrograde period for a few weeks 3 or 4 times each year. Whilst Mercury is retrograde, we humans are encouraged to take stock, make plans and discuss different approaches to a variety of subjects. But because information is often muddled, promises broken and electronic devices on the blink during Mercury retrograde, we must remain flexible and open-minded. Advice? Always allow extra time for travel. Schedule changes are common. Do not sign any contracts or cement agreements during Mercury retrograde. Make no irreversible promises. Watch out for con artists. Make no final decisions, binding engagements or major purchases during a Mercury retrograde. You are allowed to have tantrums or rail against your fate. But Mercury will continue to be retrograde till it decides to go direct again.

Mercury Retrogrades to Watch Out For in 2015/16

Jan 21 thru Feb 11, 2015

May 18 thru June 11, 2015

Sept 17 thru Oct 9, 2015

Jan 5 thru Jan 25, 2016

2015 OVERVIEW FOR THE PIG

Prosperous Pig,

You have certainly come to the right year! Pigs love and admire Sheep. I have never seen this phenomenon explained, but whenever I meet a Sheep person I am sure there is an adoring Pig lurking around somewhere nearby: a devoted wife, a helpful husband or loyal kindly friend or lover will emerge from another room. I ask their birth date and almost invariably they divulge they were born in a Pig year. Sheep attract Pigs the way Pigs attract money (which may give us a hint as to why Sheep are, in their turn, attracted to Pigs) and these two are often married or at least living together. We know that Sheep need security and crave structure. And, as they don't usually know how to concoct their own security and structure, they seek it from outside themselves in another person or an institution or some sort of relationship to something strong that they can depend on.

Although Pigs are not always the sort of people one can lean on, Pigs are usually so taken by Sheep that they allow themselves to open wide their doors and pocketbooks in order to give the Sheep anything he or she may need. How does this compatibility affect the Pig in a Sheep year? Well of course the Pig can do as he pleases in such a year. And what most pleases a Pig? Love. Great gooey Gobs of sweet, tender, sexy, bawdy glorious amour. Everything from puppy love and intimacy and passionate love will thrill you throughout this Sheep year. Pigs also love conviviality, fine foods, art and culture. Sheep years also provide plenty of all those commodities. You should breeze right through 2015. But watch out for con men and hoodwinkers. They will be coming over the balcony with knives in their teeth. sw

Financial problems may rear their hydra-heads in early January. You could receive some unpleasant correspondence from the tax officials, dunning you for monies you didn't know you owed. They may threaten to siphon funds from your paycheck or your bank accounts - or worse put you in jail. At the same time, either your car or your home (or possibly both) will require expensive repairs. Somebody who owes you money and promised to pay this month suddenly pleads bankruptcy. Your partner or one of your children is diagnosed with a medical problem necessitating a very costly course of treatment. This month is going to break your bank account and then some. Relax. It's only money.

After the ten-day spate of financial strain, you may develop some unusual mental quirk. Perhaps some old song constantly runs through your head. You even sometimes find yourself humming this tune, even though you don't particularly like it. Or maybe you compulsively re-arrange the letters of every name or phrase you see on a sign, screen or page, seeking as many anagrams as possible. Maybe you find yourself analyzing the numerological significance of the figures in every address you read or the sums in your checkbook. Or you could become obsessed with some kind of conspiracy theory. You are anxious. These obsessive manifestations are frequent when we are super stressed. Don't worry. This phase won't last very long. The New Chinese Year (Sheep) is due Feb 19. Your life is in for a big boost.

Try not to let the final week of the Year of the Horse drain away in useless anxiety or mental fidgeting. There's an opportunity around this time for you to experience some kind of major emotional or spiritual breakthrough. Perhaps you will suddenly feel a sense of dropping the weight of some pain you have carried around for years. Maybe a concatenation of unusual circumstances permits you finally to heal an insecurity you've felt since childhood. Despite the financial setbacks, if you meditate, you may experience some kind of vision which shifts your spirituality to a new level. Something very positive is imminent for Pigs in the last week of January.

PIG February 2015

Wood Sheep Year starts on February 19 and is full of golden promise. Yet for some reason, early in February, you cowering in a corner, doors barred, expecting the worst. You're in a dark funk. You've braced yourself for the worst. Stop double checking under the bed for monsters. There aren't any. The Horse year ended with a sharp kick to your bank account. No wonder you feel bruised and unwilling to move forward. This month you will see positive signs of the Sheep year influence. Your finances will begin to ease out of the red soon. Some funds which were stuck for a long time arrive suddenly on the 7th or the 9th. Either a friend who borrowed money returns it with interest or an insurance or legal claim gets settled in your favor.

You are likely to come out of self-imposed isolation on the 15th of this month. Go watch a movie or buy a small gift for a friend. Nothing cheers you up more than wandering through shops to find that perfect little something for someone you love. Go visit grandma with a basket of her favorites. Treat your amour to a woodland picnic, a decadent grown-up version with champagne and chocolate truffles. I promise there are no wolves lying in wait. There are only frolicking Sheep in the forest this year.

You're worried that your woodland follies might not be seductive. Swap flavorsome and zesty for rich and creamy. Think fresh, real and quality when you grocery shop. Start a new fitness regime around the 24th and keep at it. This is the perfect time to join a gym or enroll in dance or aerobics classes. Need some more time go full steam ahead? Not to worry. For the time being, just aim at something invigorating but soothing, something like swimming or daily brisk walks through the park. Tempt yourself with the promise of a little bite of food at the end of each exercise session. Keep the reward low in calories. Soon you will lose inches as well as last year's stress.

PIG March 2015

March starts with good news coming around the 3rd. It's either about your own child or the child of someone fairly close to you. Perhaps they've been picked to represent their town or county in a sporting event. Or they've won a prize in some prestigious competition. Either way there's a celebration planned. I know you're on a diet, but one night's indulgence won't set you back. Enjoy yourself.

By the 13th, you might consider planning a short holiday break or weekend away at the end of the month. Having trimmed a little, firmed a bit, you're already feeling more enthused at the thought of wearing a swim suit. It doesn't need to be an expensive holiday, but it does need to involve you having a change of scenery. Staying home will not do. You'll be bombarded by loved ones who think you being home means they can abuse your good nature. And you are notoriously bad at saying no. If you have to take a holiday at home, lock the door, turn off the phone and stash it with someone you trust. (Think hard about this. You tend to trust too readily.) You need to recharge your batteries. You're going to need that energy in late March.

You have a decision to make around the 25th. You need a clear head. This is a moral issue and you are on a sticky wicket here. You've stumbled onto an unpleasant secret. It's something that has no easy answer. Has someone you know done something illegal? You want to do what is right, but you also want to tackle this in the kindest way. You want the best results for everyone involved. No wonder this is giving you a few restless nights! You might want to consider talking to someone older, wiser and whom everyone holds in respect. You know him/her as being someone who regularly deals with intellectual and ethical conundrums. Could be a teacher or a priest. Ultimately, the final decision is up to you, but talking things out will help you put the facts in perspective.

PIG April 2015

April is all about harmony and peace of mind. I know what you are thinking. But alas! It's not about romance. Single Pigs will have to wait another month before anyone arrives to set their hearts in pitty pat mode. For now, the focus is on all the other variations of relationships. There is some good news related to your career or business around the 6th. It could be you've been working in tandem on a creative project. This endeavor will begin to bring in the money in April. The harmony indication means that your creative ways with problem solving and PR have been noticed and you are about to be offered a promotion or even a better job somewhere new. It will all connect back to the positive relationships you've made in your professional life.

Around the 13th to the 17th, the focus moves to family relationships. Someone is returning home after a long time away. Their coming home will have you shedding tears of joy and relief. Could this be a student child, a sibling working overseas for a decade or two or someone in the armed forces? It is also possible that the return indicated by the planets is more symbolic. Was there an old feud with a relative who hasn't spoken to you in very long time? If yes, then you both are finally ready to set the past aside and reach out in mutual forgiveness. The separation was very bitter but the sweet reunion wipes away all painful memories.

And if that weren't enough good news, by the last week of April you will be working harmoniously within your community. You could be helping at a soup kitchen or maybe you'll be volunteering to walk dogs at the animal shelter. Once again your willingness to serve will bring happiness and make you some long term friendships. Could one of those friends be the romantic interest you were hoping for? Perhaps just a temptation. At the very least you will come out of this month richer in friendships, in pocket and in soulful satisfaction.

PIG May 2015

Early May finds you planning a pleasure trip. It's not somewhere nearby however. It could be a cross

country trip to visit a dear relative. Or an overseas flight to see old friends. These friends are people who always make you feel good about yourself. Travel will boost your confidence. There's even a hint of passion and romance afoot. You are likely to get in touch with an old childhood sweetheart who lives near your pal. You are also going to be introduced to someone interesting by your friends overseas. It's not expected to be a long-lasting affair, but you two can make very sweet memories together.

Enjoy the moment, because a wolf knocks on our collective door on the 18th. Its name? Mercury Retrograde. And it doesn't let communications happen smoothly. This retrograde could signal the demise of that short lived holiday romance. The "too good to be true" awareness will most probably hit you in the gut. Don't dash out to buy over the counter tranquilizers. They won't help. Think therapy rather than medication. You do definitely need to calm your nerves. Talk it out. Write it out. Weep it out if you must. Then remind yourself that this is only a passing planetary phase. The Merry month of May still has a few savory things in store for Pigs.

By the 23rd you will begin to notice the positive results of that diet you started a few months back. By simply adding a few more salads and trimming a bit off the cheesecake and chocolate brownie portions you have dropped at least one clothing size. On top of that, there's a gift coming your way. A little surprise from a friend or colleague. And it's most likely jewelry. In any case it is something metallic. Even if it's not quite your taste, the kindness will brighten the end of May.

PIG June 2015

June starts with Mercury retrograde persisting in casting shadows on your disposition. Good news is that this Mercury Rx ends on the 11th. Until then I recommend taking things slowly. Do not act on impulse or emotion. This is vital where emails and phone calls are concerned. During this phase, someone somewhere is going to blurt a secret or let a few skeletons out of the closet. Don't let that be you. Best to zip your lips and resist all urges to blurt. Avoid gossip-hungry friends. They will show no compassion. Oddly enough, you may notice electronics (especially those used for communication purposes) "go kablooie" or simply give up their ghosts during this phase. Try to avoid purchasing any new ones. Misunderstandings which crop up between you and partners will sort themselves out after the 11th, so be patient.

Communications improve by the 12th. But your urge to act on impulse has not. Weather will take a turn for the worse mid June. It could be anything from snow storms to thunder storms, depending on where you live. If you don't pay close attention or act impetuously, you are likely to cause an accident. Rain or now - slow down. The roads are slippery. And please don't dash across the street when visibility is poor. I know you don't care to be snowed or rained on - but your life and limb are more important than your coiffure.

The 3rd and the 4th weeks of June are related to secret desires and fantasies. You will look back on this time and say, "What was I thinking?" Ponder very carefully and then ruminate some more. Do you really want to quit your job to become a standup comedian? Are you sure you want that tattoo? Rather wait a fortnight and be certain. If your whim is the right whim, it will still be right in July. If it's wrong, you will thank me for warning you.

PIG July 2015

Some unavoidable expenses related to children and /or vehicles come up around the 3rd or 4th of this month. You may either be shopping for new clothes for kids. Or the kids may want to join a hobby club which is quite expensive. A vehicle may need some unexpected repairs. Your mother's car is belching heavy smoke. Or your son called you at work to say that something on his motorbike burst and the garage floor is covered in oil. Since they are in complete panic it will be up to you to remain calm and find a

mechanic who can work with you on both price and quality as well as timing. If you are planning to buy yourself a luxury vehicle, do your homework. Read online customer reviews for the brand you are planning to buy. Talk to a few friends. Do due diligence. Planets are indicating a distinct possibility that you will make a faulty purchase and regret it later.

In mid July either you or one of the family members is participating in a competition. This contest concerns an art medium you've only ever done as a hobby. Now you've finally gathered your courage and sent a sample off to an art dealer. Be patient. You won't get an answer before the end of the month. This does not automatically mean they dislike your work. But these things take time. When the time is right they will like what they see. You might only see a modest prize or a moderate-priced sale. But this first step could be the start of something more lucrative.

The focus between July 25th and the 30th is on health and nutrition. I am not implying you have an existing issue with food. But you are likely now to come across an informative article or watch a TV documentary which prods you to think about how you currently eat. You will be taking some steps to boost your energy and metabolism. Remember that an apple a day may not always keep the doctor away, but it will certainly keep you in better health. Eat fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables to aid your digestion and boost energy the natural way. Choose fresh juices over canned and avoid all soda. And if you happen to be over 40, adding a broad spectrum multivitamin to your daily diet will go a long way. Focus especially on getting enough iron and vitamin B12.

PIG August 2015

Early this month is about possible job change and relocation. You may be suddenly transferred or asked to move to another department or section in a different part of the same city or even a new city. It's also possible that the move has to do with ending a relationship. This change may come as a shock to you and yours. Some minor headaches come up in the shifting process but take heart! This move will be the start of better times. Do take the time to put all important phone numbers into your cell phone address book. And remember to add useful local numbers you may be needing - your new power company and the nearest pizza delivery.

There are opportunities to shine at the new workplace beginning on the 11th. Keep an eye peeled for them. Being helpful to a colleague will bring you rewards - a little extra pay for extra hours. Or perhaps you'll make a new friend. Good thing too, because you're feeling a tad lonely. Invite that friendly co-worker over to your place. It doesn't matter that you're still using paper plates and sitting on boxes. You can judge from the person's reaction whether they will be a long term friend or not.

By the fourth week of August, you will have found the electric kettle and the cutlery and can begin to think of cooking something besides pasta. Work is going well and you like the new neighborhood. You begin to relax. Now is the perfect time to do a little shopping for your new home. Why not get that extra large flat screen TV you've always wanted? Or maybe you could splurge on luxurious new sheets to match the wallpaper in the bedroom? Add some new towels and a really soft bath mat, the kind you usually find in up-market hotels. Start the next month by pampering yourself.

PIG September 2015

Early September finds you in a creative organizational frenzy. You have been passionately reading books and websites about the Indian science of Vastu and Chinese Feng-Shui. As a result, you feel exceptionally inspired to incorporate your newfound interest in your living and working space. By the 8th, you've feng shui-ed everyone you know into spatial harmony. Or organized a new desk layout and shelving plan for your local library's study area. Fortunately you are too nice to be considered an annoying meddler. People can't resist your combination of caring and forcefulness.

By middle of the month, this energy has you considering self improvements as well. How about taking a booster class in some skill your new job entails. Or perhaps you want to improve purely for you. There are plenty of subjects you've always wanted to learn more about. You are a born culture vulture. Interior decorating? Definitely Yes! Classic French cooking? Go for it! Conversational Japanese? Wait! Forget language classes. We move into another word-twisting brain-boggling Mercury Retrograde, on Sept 17th. So this is not the time to try to learn a new language. Leave that idea until next month. If you've already booked and paid for those classes, be prepared to struggle and sweat.

In late September someone charming in your circle will be sending flirty text messages. You don't know this person very well, but you have met him or her on a couple of occasions somewhere. These messages make your temperature rise. You feel flattered and desirable. Before responding, you should remember that this is a phase of retrograde mercury. But you're not thinking with your brain, are you? If one of you is already married or committed to a relationship, you are going to enter forbidden territory. Forbidden fruit may look delectable and ripe, but I feel I must remind you of all those sumptuous roast pigs, crispy dead ones with apples firmly crammed in their mouths. Indulging in a passionate affair is a bad idea. But during Mercury retrograde such a fling could prove fatal.

PIG October 2015

It will be prudent to keep on hold important official texts, emails and phone calls until Oct 9th when Mercury goes direct. Focus on simple things that you can accomplish with ease. Clear out the garage or sort through your wardrobe. Make it a week of tidying and sorting. Think of this period as preparation for the time when the retrograde ends and things return to normal. By the 11th you'll be feeling lighter, brighter, positive and perky.

You are on a socializing streak between the 10th and the 18th. There are some happy events which promise a great time spent with close friends and colleagues. Every second day offers some kind of new celebration, Maybe a few classmates from your school days are planning a weekend reunion. Or perhaps a close friend has suddenly struck gold in some business venture. They want to celebrate their success. At the same time, a group of childhood buddies is also visiting your town. They are coming just to meet with you. Someone in this circle of cronies comes from a super affluent background. They may plan to travel to an exotic location and beg you to come along. Don't hesitate to say yes.

By the end of October there's more good news related to babies. It could concern a longed-for pregnancy or an adoption. It might even be that news is about the travel with friends. The ring leader could be adopting a child from an overseas country and want you to go along for moral support. Everyone wants a Pig around for comfort and encouragement. Have fun, wherever you travel. But don't forget those pre-travel vaccinations. Foreign bugs are not the kind of tourist mementos you want to take home. Do remember to check everything at home before you lock up and head for the airport. There's a minor chance of problems related to water. Could be something simple like forgetting that your potted plants need watering while you're gone. But check the plumbing and scope out the roof for leaks. You don't want to come home to either flooded rooms or dead plants.

PIG November 2015

Health may need attention during the first week of November. Dieting is simply not on at this season. Also, refuse to try foods you've never tasted before or you may fall ill. Start nursing any health issues involving the head at this time. Migraines and dizziness may be prevalent now. You could be prone to a rolling cough and on-and-off headaches that may last the duration of the month. Keep relief medicine handy and do more exercise than usual. Drink a liter and a half of water every day. If you can't get to the gym or engage in sports activities, try taking walks - even on sidewalks in town. Keep the body agile and

the blood coursing through your veins.

You are likely to meet someone very interesting around the 14th. This person is charismatic and has a strong spiritual background or inclination. You feel immense attraction. But this is probably not going to be a romantic liaison. It is going to lead to a warm friendship. He or she is here to help and advise you regarding some cause you are passionate about. We could be talking about the local church leader or a shrink or even a savvy lawyer. Consider their advice. But listen to your own heart. You'll find the right answers.

The 24th to the 28th are ideal days to wrap up loose ends. This is a good time to get your personal finances in order. Review your insurance policies, bringing them up-to-date if necessary. Transfer existing credit card debt to benefit from lower rates of interest. Also banish chaos and clutter from your house. Re-organize your closets, chests of drawers and bookcases. Throw out or donate what you do not use. Give old clothes to a charity thrift shop. Make sure you know where all your belongings are stored so, in future, you can access what you need when you need it. Organization may sound like a boring project. But creating order in your living environment generates positive energy, **PIG December 2015**

Disputes and tensions within the family and your office team may test your patience between the 4th and the 8th. You might find yourself catapulted into an uncomfortable melee of office politics. This muddle is likely to be instigated by an incompetent colleague who is unhappy with his work. Your boss may not be his or her usual friendly self. Handle everything with kid gloves. Don't let choppy waters in career matters put a damper on your enthusiasm. You will gain traction by end of the month. Your professional goals will be reaffirmed and back on track. Family will be supportive and loving.

Some surprising advice from a friend may inspire you to think about embarking on a lucrative new business venture around the 18th. Don't rush in too quickly. Do your homework. Discuss with your partner and family. Take your time to examine all the details before you leap. As long as you prepare carefully and ask the right questions, this new idea can yield strong profits. Remember to invest only the funds you can afford to lose without negatively impacting your lifestyle. And don't be in a hurry to quit your job before this revolutionary business deal becomes fully profitable.

Christmas is joyful and you are full of gratitude. You may feel like throwing lavish parties for friends and loved ones. Some of you may be in a mood to gamble and want to visit Vegas or Monte Carlo after the 21st. The temptation to try to strike it rich will be enormous. Take risks. Speculate by all means, if you want to - Go for the jugular in everything. But stay within the limits of sanity and know when to quit. The roulette wheel is a treacherous toy. Many people patronizing casinos come decked out with diamonds, Rolex watches and lavish accessories. Many of them leave the premises with no jewelry. They even lose their clothes! Remember. The house always wins.

PIG January 2016

January should carry a communications health warning. Not only is Mercury retrograde back, but it's back for almost the entire month. From the 5th to the 25th, it would be best to not try to accomplish much of anything. Oh yes. Do water those potted plants, listen to music and paint your fingernails. Apart from routine tasks, you might want to back up your computer's hard disk and ensure that the anti-virus software is up-to-date. Is there any good news to the coming Mercury retrograde? There is. Your intuition is in tiptop condition. When words make no sense, and incoming emails read like they were translated from some ancient form of Persian... trust your gut. No matter how good the figures look. No matter how many times you've checked the contract. Trust your inner compass. If something you read feels fishy - throw it back. Wait to make decisions until early February.

As if sensing the approaching Fire Monkey year, on February 8th, of 2016, the middle of this month is

capricious. One moment - you are stuck in place. The next, you zoom forward at a dizzying pace. In your love life this tendency might show up as silly fights. Not to worry, they will be followed by steamy making-up sessions. At work, misunderstandings cause you to you grind your teeth. Then suddenly the boss or your disgruntled clients declare their love for you. Your friends seem tired and listless. Yet they want to arrange an all night card game at your house. Up – down. Stop – go. It makes you dizzy.

The upcoming Fire Monkey year (February 8, 2016) will rekindle the Christmas holiday warmth and help you forget about a dull January. Monkey years are full of mischief. You will be challenged. You'll need to keep your wits honed. But for you Pigs, the Monkey Year will prove to be a non stop adventure.

CHINESE CALENDAR

(Capricorn and Aquarius Find Dates for Your Year Here)

THE CHINESE CALENDAR

<i>Year</i>	<i>Sign</i>	<i>Element</i>	<i>Year begins</i>	<i>Year ends</i>
1900	Rat	Metal	1/31/1900	2/18/1901
1901	Ox	Metal	2/19/1901	2/7/1902
1902	Tiger	Water	2/8/1902	1/28/1903
1903	Cat	Water	1/29/1903	2/15/1904
1904	Dragon	Wood	2/16/1904	2/3/1905
1905	Snake	Wood	2/4/1905	1/24/1906
1906	Horse	Fire	1/25/1906	2/12/1907
1907	Goat	Fire	2/13/1907	2/1/1908
1908	Monkey	Earth	2/2/1908	1/21/1909
1909	Rooster	Earth	1/22/1909	2/9/1910
1910	Dog	Metal	2/10/1910	1/29/1911
1911	Pig	Metal	1/30/1911	2/17/1912
1912	Rat	Water	2/18/1912	2/5/1913
1913	Ox	Water	2/6/1913	1/25/1914
1914	Tiger	Wood	1/26/1914	2/13/1915
1915	Cat	Wood	2/14/1915	2/2/1916
1916	Dragon	Fire	2/3/1916	1/22/1917
1917	Snake	Fire	1/23/1917	2/10/1918
1918	Horse	Earth	2/11/1918	1/31/1919
1919	Goat	Earth	2/1/1919	2/19/1920
1920	Monkey	Metal	2/20/1920	2/7/1921
1921	Rooster	Metal	2/8/1921	1/27/1922
1922	Dog	Water	1/28/1922	2/15/1923
1923	Pig	Water	2/16/1923	2/4/1924
1924	Rat	Wood	2/5/1924	1/23/1925
1925	Ox	Wood	1/24/1925	2/12/1926
1926	Tiger	Fire	2/13/1926	2/1/1927
1927	Cat	Fire	2/2/1927	1/22/1928

Year | Sign | Element | Year begins | Year ends 1928 | Dragon | Earth | 1/23/1928 | 2/9/1929

1929 | Snake | Earth | 2/10/1929 | 1/29/1930

1930 | Horse | Metal | 1/30/1930 | 2/16/1931

1931 | Goat | Metal | 2/17/1931 | 2/5/1932

1932 | Monkey | Water | 2/6/1932 | 1/25/1933

1933 | Rooster | Water | 1/26/1933 | 2/13/1934

1934 | Dog | Wood | 2/14/1934 | 2/3/1935

1935 | Pig | Wood | 2/4/1935 | 1/23/1936

1936 | Rat | Fire | 1/24/1936 | 2/10/1937

1937 | Ox | Fire | 2/11/1937 | 1/30/1938

1938 | Tiger | Earth | 1/31/1938 | 2/18/1939

1939 | Cat | Earth | 2/19/1939 | 2/7/1940

1940 | Dragon | Metal | 2/8/1940 | 1/26/1941

1941 | Snake | Metal | 1/27/1941 | 2/14/1942

1942 | Horse | Water | 2/15/1942 | 2/4/1943

1943 | Goat | Water | 2/5/1943 | 1/24/1944

1944 | Monkey | Wood | 1/25/1944 | 2/12/1945

1945 | Rooster | Wood | 2/13/1945 | 2/1/1946

1946 | Dog | Fire | 2/2/1946 | 1/21/1947

1947 | Pig | Fire | 1/22/1947 | 2/9/1948

1948 | Rat | Earth | 2/10/1948 | 1/28/1949

1949 | Ox | Earth | 1/29/1949 | 2/16/1950

1950 | Tiger | Metal | 2/17/1950 | 2/5/1951

1951 | Cat | Metal | 2/6/1951 | 1/26/1952

1952 | Dragon | Water | 1/27/1952 | 2/13/1953

1953 | Snake | Water | 2/14/1953 | 2/2/1954

1954 | Horse | Wood | 2/3/1954 | 1/23/1955

1955 | Goat | Wood | 1/24/1955 | 2/11/1956

1956 | Monkey | Fire | 2/12/1956 | 1/30/1957

1957 | Rooster | Fire | 1/31/1957 | 2/17/1958

1958 | Dog | Earth | 2/18/1958 | 2/7/1959

1959 | Pig | Earth | 2/8/1959 | 1/27/1960

1960 | Rat | Metal | 1/28/1960 | 2/14/1961

1961 | Ox | Metal | 2/15/1961 | 2/4/1962

1962 | Tiger | Water | 2/5/1962 | 1/24/1963

1963 | Cat | Water | 1/25/1963 | 2/12/1964

1964 | Dragon | Wood | 2/13/1964 | 2/1/1965

Year | Sign | Element | Year begins | Year ends 1965 | Snake | Wood | 2/2/1965 | 1/20/1966

1966 | Horse | Fire | 1/21/1966 | 2/8/1967

1967 | Goat | Fire | 2/9/1967 | 1/29/1968

1968 | Monkey | Earth | 1/30/1968 | 2/16/1969

1969 | Rooster | Earth | 2/17/1969 | 2/5/1970

1970 | Dog | Metal | 2/6/1970 | 1/26/1971

1971 | Pig | Metal | 1/27/1971 | 2/14/1972

1972 | Rat | Water | 2/15/1972 | 2/2/1973

1973 | Ox | Water | 2/3/1973 | 1/22/1974

1974 | Tiger | Wood | 1/23/1974 | 2/10/1975

1975 | Cat | Wood | 2/11/1975 | 1/30/1976

1976 | Dragon | Fire | 1/31/1976 | 2/17/1977

1977 | Snake | Fire | 2/18/1977 | 2/6/1978

1978 | Horse | Earth | 2/7/1978 | 1/27/1979

1979 | Goat | Earth | 1/28/1979 | 2/15/1980

1980 | Monkey | Metal | 2/16/1980 | 2/4/1981

1981 | Rooster | Metal | 2/5/1981 | 1/24/1982

1982 | Dog | Water | 1/25/1982 | 2/12/1983

1983 | Pig | Water | 2/13/1983 | 2/1/1984

1984 | Rat | Wood | 2/2/1984 | 2/19/1985

1985 | Ox | Wood | 2/20/1985 | 2/8/1986

1986 | Tiger | Fire | 2/9/1986 | 1/28/1987

1987 | Cat | Fire | 1/29/1987 | 2/16/1988

1988 | Dragon | Earth | 2/17/1988 | 2/5/1989

1989 | Snake | Earth | 2/6/1989 | 1/26/1990

1990 | Horse | Metal | 1/27/1990 | 2/14/1991

1991 | Goat | Metal | 2/15/1991 | 2/3/1992

1992 | Monkey | Water | 2/4/1992 | 1/22/1993

1993 | Rooster | Water | 1/23/1993 | 2/9/1994

1994 | Dog | Wood | 2/10/1994 | 1/30/1995

1995 | Pig | Wood | 1/31/1995 | 2/18/1996

1996 | Rat | Fire | 2/19/1996 | 2/6/1997

1997 | Ox | Fire | 2/7/1997 | 1/27/1998

1998 | Tiger | Earth | 1/28/1998 | 2/15/1999
1999 | Cat | Earth | 2/16/1999 | 2/4/2000
2000 | Dragon | Metal | 2/5/2000 | 1/23/2001
2001 | Snake | Metal | 1/24/2001 | 2/11/2002
2002 | Horse | Water | 2/12/2002 | 1/31/2003
Year | Sign | Element | Year ends | Year begins 2003 | Goat | Water | 2/1/2003 | 1/21/2004
2004 | Monkey | Wood | 1/22/2004 | 2/8/2005
2005 | Rooster | Wood | 2/9/2005 | 1/28/2006
2006 | Dog | Fire | 1/29/2006 | 2/17/2007
2007 | Pig | Fire | 2/18/2007 | 2/6/2008
2008 | Rat | Earth | 2/7/2008 | 1/25/2009
2009 | Ox | Earth | 1/26/2009 | 2/13/2010
2010 | Tiger | Metal | 2/14/2010 | 2/2/2011
2011 | Cat | Metal | 2/3/2011 | 1/22/2012
2012 | Dragon | Water | 1/23/2012 | 2/9/2013
2013 | Snake | Water | 2/10/2013 | 1/30/2014
2014 | Horse | Wood | 1/31/2014 | 2/18/2015
2015 | Goat | Wood | 2/19/2015 | 2/7/2016
2016 | Monkey | Fire | 2/8/2016 | 1/27/2017
2017 | Rooster | Fire | 1/28/2017 | 2/15/2018
2018 | Dog | Earth | 2/16/2018 | 2/4/2019
2019 | Pig | Earth | 2/5/2019 | 1/24//2020



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Best-Selling author Suzanne White is American. She lives in France. In Provence. Suzanne speaks and writes in both French and English. She has been a college professor, a fashion model, a journalist, an interpreter, a novelist, a fireworks salesperson, director of a Parisian Couture boutique, an elevator operator, a shoe salesperson, a single mother and a simultaneous translator. She came to writing late at age 33. By age 38, she had written her first best seller. THE NEW ASTROLOGY™, a savvy fusion of Chinese and Western astrological signs creating 144 NEW SIGNS. Suzanne White's fans and readers

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